

Somber Start For Ramadan

ALBERT AJI
DIAA HADID
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — As the Muslim holy month of Ramadan began Wednesday, many Syrians who observe the daily dawn-to-dusk fast that is broken with lavish family meals are struggling to find the usually festive mood and holiday warmth as the country's bloody conflict rages for a third year.



Indonesian Muslims perform an evening prayer called 'tarawih' marking the first eve of the holy fasting month of Ramadan at Istiqlal Mosque in Jakarta, Indonesia. (AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim)

In one rebel-held city, residents have resorted to begging for crumbs at a local soup kitchen, while in a refugee camp on the Jordanian border, Syrians hounded by the desert heat and dust break their fast separated from relatives back home. Reflecting the deprivation brought on by the war, the U.N food agency said that 7 million people were now reliant on food aid simply to eat. The fighting that has destroyed much of the country, combined with prices that have soared in recent months, have left many Syrians struggling to get by. "People come by the kitchen just begging for scraps, it tears the heart," said an activist in the rebel-held northern Syrian city of Maarat al-Numan.

Continued on Page 2

BOSTON SUSPECT PLEADS NOT GUILTY



Courtroom sketch depicts Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev with his lawyer Miriam Conrad before Magistrate Judge Marianne Bowler during his arraignment in federal court Wednesday, July 10, 2013 in Boston. (AP Photo/Jane Flavell Collins)

Alleged bomber Tsarnaev could face death penalty

DENISE LAVOIE
JAY LINDSAY
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, his arm in a cast and his face swollen, pleaded not guilty Wednesday in a seven-minute proceeding that marked his first appearance in public since his capture in mid-April. As survivors of the bombing looked on, Tsarnaev, 19, gave a small, lopsided smile to his two sisters upon arriving in the courtroom. He appeared to have a jaw injury and there was swelling around his left eye and cheek. Leaning into the microphone, he told a federal judge, "Not guilty" in his Russian accent and said

it over and over as the charges were read. Then he was led away in handcuffs, making a kissing gesture toward his family with his lips. One of his sisters sobbed loudly, resting her head on a woman seated next to her. Tsarnaev, who has been hospitalized since his capture with wounds suffered in a shootout and getaway attempt, faces 30 federal charges, including using a weapon of mass destruction to kill, in connection with the April 15 attack that left three people dead and more than 260 wounded. He could get the death penalty if prosecutors choose to pursue it. The proceedings took place in a heavily guarded courtroom packed not only with victims but with

their families, police officers, and members of the public and the media. The Russian immigrant and former college student looked much as he did in a photo widely circulated after his arrest, his hair curly and unkempt. Wearing an orange prison jumpsuit, he appeared nonchalant, almost bored, during the hearing. The cast covered his left forearm, hand and fingers. The bombing victims showed little reaction in the courtroom after a federal marshal warned them against any outbursts. Liz Norden, the mother of two men who lost their right legs in the bombings, said afterward: "I actually felt sick to my stomach." MIT Police Chief John Di-

Fava, who was also in the courtroom, said Tsarnaev looked "smug." "I didn't see a lot of remorse. I didn't see a lot of regret," he said. "It just seemed to me that if I was in that position, I would have been a lot more nervous, certainly scared." DiFava added: "I just wanted to see him. I wanted to see the person that so coldly and callously killed four people, one of whom being an officer of mine." Authorities say Tsarnaev orchestrated the bombing along with his older brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, who died following a gun battle with police three days after the attack.

Continued on Page 3

As Ramadan begins, festive mood eludes Syrians

Continued from Front

He said activists were using a communal kitchen to distribute a simple Ramadan evening meal of rice, vegetable stew and soup to some 400 of the city's neediest families. He identified himself only by his nickname, Abu Anas, fearing for his safety. In the Zaatari refugee camp in the Jordanian desert, many of the 120,000 Syrians that live in the sprawling tent city home were homesick and miserable. "Carrying out the Rama-

ing daylight hours from food, drink, smoking and sex to focus on spirituality, good deeds and charity. The fast presents a physical and spiritual challenge every year, but particularly when the holiday falls during harsh Mideast summer when the days are longest and temperatures soar in some places to 50 degrees Celsius (120 Fahrenheit). The Muslim lunar calendar moves back through the seasons, so Ramadan starts 11 days earlier each year under the Western calendar. For most Sunnis and Shites, Ramadan started on Wednesday while others

sweets, the devout pray even more and regional cooking shows obsess over new takes on classic dishes for the Ramadan evening meal. But the hardships in Syria, where the civil war is now in its third year, have eroded much of the Ramadan joy. Even those considered lucky enough to have stayed in their homes found themselves cutting back on traditional Ramadan delights like sweets and meats as they awoke to their fragile currency falling once again, this time to 270 pounds to the U.S. dollar.

Arab Spring-inspired uprising against Assad's regime. It descended into a civil war that has killed more than 93,000 people, displaced over 5 million and turned over 1.5 million into refugees, according to U.N. figures. On Wednesday, the World Food Program said it needed \$27 million every month to deal with the growing ranks of Syrians made hungry because of the war and refugees crisis abroad. If the organization did not provide for them, "they simply will not eat," said Muhannad Hadi, WFP's emergency coordinator in Syria, speaking at a new



Yemeni vendors sell sweets to be eaten after breaking the fast on the first day of the month of Ramadan in the a market in the old city of Sanaa, Yemen, Wednesday, July 10, 2013. Muslims began observing the dawn-to-dusk fast for the month of Ramadan across the Middle East on Wednesday, even as the region is shaken by the crisis in Egypt and the U.N. food agency warned that Syria's civil war has left 7 million people in need of food aid.

dan fast in this refugee camp is extremely difficult in every way imaginable," said Abu Qusai, a 32-year-old construction worker from the restive southern province of Daraa, where the Syrian uprising against President Bashar Assad began in March 2011. "It is as dry as a bone and the dust is kicking up ... we're thirsty, dirty and very uncomfortable. We're fed up." Ramadan is traditionally a time of reflection and prayer, and Muslims are expected to abstain dur-

are expected to begin observing the holy month on Thursday — differences based on various interpretations of sightings of the new moon. Despite its apparent harshness, many Muslims eagerly anticipate Ramadan, the month when they believe God revealed the first verses of the Muslim holy book, the Quran, to the Prophet Muhammad. Streets are decorated with colorful lanterns, families gather at dusk to break their fasts with sumptuous feasts of meat and rice and

It was likely to set off another rise in food prices that residents say has already increased five-fold. Still, residents in Damascus said the mood was better than last year, when rebels tried to overrun the capital. In the past few months, the military has gone on the offensive and has succeeded in clearing rebels from many areas on the edge of the capital as well as in the country's center. Encouraged, many Syrians abroad returned to visit relatives this Ramadan. Syria's conflict began as an

conference in New York. The food crisis is partly caused by the rising price of fuel, a lack of imports and farmers abandoning their fields because it's unsafe to work. The Syrian currency fell further, to 280 pounds to the U.S. dollar on Wednesday, after recovering from a record low of 310 pounds to the dollar on Tuesday. The falling pound is likely to further push up prices. It made an average teacher's salary equivalent to some \$70, a resident explained. □

Police: Quebec train crash death toll reaches 20

**DAVID CRARY
Associated Press
LAC-MEGANTIC, Quebec (AP)** — Canadian officials are now telling the families of the 30 people missing in a runaway oil train crash over the weekend that all are presumed dead.

With 20 bodies found, that would put the death toll from Saturday's derailment and explosions at 50. The head of the U.S. railway company whose oil train crashed into the Quebec town has blamed the engineer for failing to set the brakes properly. A fire on the train just hours before the crash is also being investigated.

Parts of the devastated town had been too hot and dangerous to enter and find bodies even days after the disaster. Some 60 had been presumed missing earlier. The Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway train hurtled downhill for seven miles (11 kilometers) before derailling in the center of Lac-Megantic. All but one of the 73 cars was carrying oil, and at least five exploded. The crash raised questions about the increasing use of rail to transport oil in North America. Edward Burkhardt, president and CEO of the railway's parent company, Rail World Inc., said the engineer has been suspended without pay and was under "police control."

"We think he applied some hand brakes, but the question is, did he apply enough of them?" Burkhardt said. "He said he applied 11 hand brakes. We think that's not true. Initially we believed him, but now we don't."

Burkhardt encountered sharp criticism from Quebec politicians and jeers from Lac-Megantic residents while making his first visit to the town.

Burkhardt did not name the engineer, though the company had previously identified the employee as Tom Harding of Quebec. Quebec Premier Pauline Marois faulted the company's response to the disaster. □

(AP Photo/Hani Mohammed)

UN says Mexico surpasses United States in obesity

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico has surpassed the United States in levels of adult obesity, a dubious distinction that experts attribute to Mexicans abandoning their traditional diet for processed snack foods and drinks.

Almost one-third of adult Mexicans, 32.8 percent, are obese compared to 31.8 percent of Americans, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, or FAO. Both countries trail such countries as Egypt, which clocks in at 34.6 percent, Kuwait at 42.8 percent, and the Micronesian island of Nauru at 71.1 percent.

Experts say the root of the problem in Mexico is changing dietary patterns. "One factor is that Mexicans consume more soft drinks per person than any other country. That's a lot of sugar," said Katia Garcia, a nutritionist and researcher for the Power of the Consumer group.

Garcia said Mexicans are increasingly eating more refined flour, sugar and energy-dense foods. "People have been abandoning the traditional diet, tortillas, beans and chili, which are rich in fiber and vitamins." The FAO's "The State of Food and Agriculture" report was released in early June and defines people over 20 years of age with a body mass index of 30

or more as obese. Besides Egypt, Kuwait and Nauru, a number of island nations like Samoa and Tonga also top Mexico, having more than half their populations listed as obese. Bahamas and Barbados are in the mid-thirties range.

Still, Mexico's obesity has caused serious concern among activists, especially given the fact that Mexico is still battling malnutrition. Large numbers of children in Mexico's poor, rural villages remain underweight. "Malnutrition is a paradoxical situation," said Carlos Labastida, of the general secretariat of Mexico's National Autonomous University. "In some regions of our country, we haven't overcome the problems of a lack of calories and malnutrition, while on the other hand we have to face a huge problem, which in my opinion is even bigger than malnutrition, which is obesity and being overweight." And the country's obesity problem is only likely to get worse.

Former President Felipe Calderon announced in 2011 that Mexico had the highest rate of obesity for children ages 5 to 19 in the world.

More than 28 percent of children between 5 and 9, and 38 percent of pre-teens and teenagers ages 10 to 19, are overweight or obese, according to statistics from the Mexican Social Security Institute. □



A street vendor fries food for customers during lunch time in Mexico City, Wednesday, July 10, 2013. Mexico has surpassed the United States in levels of adult obesity. Almost one-third of adult Mexicans, 32.8 percent, are obese compared to 31.8 percent of Americans, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, or FAO.

(AP Photo/Ivan Pierre Aguirre)

Boston Bombing suspect Tsarnaev pleads not guilty

Continued from Front

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was arrested on April 19, hiding in a bloodstained boat in a suburban backyard after a manhunt that paralyzed much of the Boston area. Tsarnaev is also charged in the killing of a Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer and the carjacking of a motorist during their getaway attempt.

His two sisters were in court wearing traditional Muslim scarves called hijabs. One was carrying a baby; the other wiped away tears with a tissue. Tsarnaev's parents remained back in Russia.

Tsarnaev's lawyer Judy

Clarke, an expert in death penalty cases, asked that the judge enter not-guilty pleas for him, but U.S. Magistrate Judge Marianne Bowler said: "I would ask him to answer."

On the same day as the arraignment, Boston's police commissioner appeared in Congress and complained to a Senate panel that the Justice Department failed to share information on terrorism threats with local officials before the bombing. "There is a gap with information sharing at a higher level while there are still opportunities to intervene in the planning of these terrorist events," Commissioner Edward F. Davis III said.

Reporters and spectators began lining up for seats in

the courtroom at 7:30 a.m. as a dozen Federal Protective Service officers and bomb-sniffing dogs surrounded the courthouse. Four hours before the 3:30 p.m. hearing, the defendant arrived at the courthouse in a four-vehicle motorcade.

About a dozen Tsarnaev supporters cheered as the motorcade arrived. The demonstrators yelled, "Justice for Jahar!" as Tsarnaev is known. One woman held a sign that said, "Free Jahar."

A group of friends who were on the high school wrestling team with Tsarnaev at Cambridge Rindge and Latin waited in line for hours, hoping to get a seat. □



A supporter of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev leaves federal court after his arraignment Wednesday, July 10, 2013, in Boston.

(AP Photo/Winslow Townson)

Hispanic employees sue Target for discrimination

FRESNO, California (AP) —

Three former Hispanic employees are suing Target Corp., the second-largest U.S. discount chain, for discrimination and retaliation, citing a training document reminding managers that not all Hispanics eat tacos and burritos, dance to salsa or wear sombreros.

The lawsuit, filed June 24 in California, alleges that Caucasian managers at a warehouse regularly used racial slurs when address-

ing Hispanic workers. The lawsuit also said workers who complained about the conditions at the distribution center were fired. Target spokeswoman Molly Snyder wouldn't comment on the lawsuit because the company has not yet been served with the complaint, but she said the U.S.-based company was sorry for the content of the document. She says it was not part of any "formal or company-wide training" and was

used only at one distribution center.

She said the company doesn't "tolerate or condone discrimination in any form" and has policies and procedures in place to prevent unfair treatment.

"The content of the document referenced is not representative of who Target is," Snyder said. "We take accountability for its contents and are truly sorry." The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages. □

Biden: China's rise is good, cybertheft must stop

M. PENNINGTON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Vice President Joe Biden said China's rise is good but its theft of U.S. intellectual property must stop as the global powers held annual talks that signaled more cooperation on tackling climate change while underscoring their deep differences on human rights. The gathering took place a month after the U.S. and Chinese presidents' summit in California that tried to set a positive tone in relations but also made clear Washington's growing anxiety about Chinese cybertheft. "We both will benefit from an open, secure, reliable Internet. Outright cyber-enabling theft that U.S. companies are experiencing now must be viewed as out of bounds and needs to stop," Biden said in his opening remarks at the State Department. He cited the "emerging and continuing growth of the Chinese economy" as good news, with Beijing's rise "good for America and the world." Yet such prog-

ress, Biden said, "comes with some new international responsibilities." The first of two days of Cabinet-level discussions talked about trade and investment barriers as well as the nuclear program of North Korea, where the U.S. wants China to lean on its troublesome ally to disarm. Also on the agenda were territorial disputes in the East and South China Seas, where assertive Chinese behavior has unnerved its neighbors. The most tangible outcome Wednesday was an announcement of new initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. The two sides agreed to cooperate on cutting emissions from vehicles and coal combustion and to promote more efficient use of energy in buildings, transport and industry. Implementation plans will be ready by October, the State Department said. Secretary of State John Kerry returned from his wife's bedside in Boston and issued tearful thanks for the outpouring of good wishes for Teresa Heinz Kerry, hos-

pitalized as she recovers from a seizure-like episode. He returned later Wednesday to Massachusetts, with deputy William Burns now taking his place at the talks. The Chinese side was led by Vice Premier Wang Yang and State Councilor Yang Jiechi, who said U.S.-China

relations had "reached a new starting point" after the June summit between President Barack Obama and President Xi Jinping. "China will stay committed to reform and opening up," Yang said, adding that his nation was committed to being a responsible player

in the international system. But he made only passing reference to cybersecurity as one of the "global challenges" that the U.S. and China should work together on.

They remain at odds over what is acceptable behavior in cyberspace. □



Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi, left, and Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang, center, listen as Vice President Joe Biden speaks during the opening session of the 2013 Strategic and Economic Dialogue, Wednesday, July 10, 2013, at the State Department in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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Senate panel approves protections for gays

JEREMY W. PETERS

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WASHINGTON - A Senate panel on Wednesday quickly and easily approved a first-of-its-kind anti-discrimination measure that would provide workplace protection to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Three Republicans on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee voted for the bill, which supporters hope will improve its chances to pass the Senate with the 60 votes it will need. Four Republican senators - Orrin G. Hatch of Utah, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Mark S. Kirk of Illinois, who voted for it in committee, along with Susan Collins of Maine, one of the bill's sponsors - are now on record supporting the bill, which has been debated in one form or another

for more than a decade in Congress but has never passed the Senate.

Supporters said they were emboldened by the 15-7 vote Wednesday and took it as yet another sign, after last month's Supreme Court decision invalidating the Defense of Marriage Act, that gay rights are on an inexorable climb.

But the political reality in Congress means the fate of the legislation is very much in doubt, despite the ease with which it cleared the committee. Even if the bill garners the necessary 60 votes to pass the Senate - not a sure thing, even with the support of the four Republicans, as three Democrats remain uncommitted - it faces an almost certain death in the House, where the Republican leadership has no plans to bring it up. □

Defense attorneys rest case in George Zimmerman trial

KYLE HIGHTOWER
MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

SANFORD, Florida (AP) — After taking less than a week to call 18 witnesses, George Zimmerman's defense attorneys rested their case Wednesday in the neighborhood watch volunteer's second-degree murder trial in connection with the shooting death of an unarmed black teenager.

Prosecutors called their first rebuttal witness immediately afterward— Adam Pollock, the gym owner who had trained Zimmerman. Following rebuttal witnesses, prosecutors and defense attorneys will then work out the jury instructions before presenting closing arguments. The judge then sends the case to six jurors.

Zimmerman never testified. But jurors saw repeated video recordings of Zimmerman telling his side of the story to police investigators. The defense started its case last Friday, and it presented half as many witnesses in half of the time that prosecutors did.

Some civil rights activists argued that the initial delay in charging Zimmerman was influenced by Martin's race. Martin was black and Zimmerman identifies himself as Hispanic. The 44-day delay in Zimmerman's arrest led to protests around the United States.

The defense rested on a day when the judge made two rulings that prevented them from introducing two pieces of evidence. Defense attorneys had wanted to present to jurors text messages discussing fight-

ing from Trayvon Martin's cell phone and an animation depicting Zimmerman's fatal fight with Martin. But Judge Debra Nelson sided with prosecutors, who had argued the ani-

mation is inaccurate and the texts were irrelevant. During the four days they presented their case, defense attorneys called Zimmerman's friends, parents and uncle to testify that it is

Zimmerman screaming for help on a police call that captured sounds of the fatal fight. Martin's mother and brother had testified for the prosecution that it's Martin yelling for help.

Convincing the jury of who was screaming for help on the police tape has become the primary goal of prosecutors and defense attorneys because it would help jurors evaluate Zimmerman's self-defense claim.

Zimmerman's father, Robert Zimmerman Sr., was the last witness called by the defense on Wednesday, and he said it's his son yelling for help on the call.

Defense attorneys also called a forensic pathologist who testified that the forensics evidence supports Zimmerman's account of what happened. Zimmerman has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder and says he shot an unarmed Martin in self-defense during a scuffle in the townhome complex where he lived in February 2012. Martin was there visiting his father and his father's fiancée. □



Defense attorney, Don West, left, rests his face in his hands while sitting next to George Zimmerman during Zimmerman's trial in Seminole circuit court in Sanford, Fla. Wednesday, July 10, 2013. After taking less than a week to call 18 witnesses, Zimmerman's defense attorneys rested their case Wednesday. (AP Photo/Gary W. Green)

US soldier's defense team rests in WikiLeaks trial

DAVID DISHNEAU
Associated Press

FORT MEADE, Maryland (AP) — Bradley Manning's defense rested its case Wednesday after trying to prove the thousands of classified documents the U.S. soldier gave to the anti-secrecy site WikiLeaks did not threaten national security or troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Prosecutors argued the former Army intelligence analyst let military secrets fall into the hands of al-Qaida and its former leader Osama bin Laden. Manning faces 21 charges, including aiding the enemy, which carries a possible life sentence.

Manning did not take the stand during the trial, but he testified during a pre-trial hearing in February, reading from a statement

in which he said he leaked the material to expose the military's "bloodlust" and disregard for human life in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Prosecutors said they plan to call rebuttal witnesses next week. They have argued that Manning used military computers in Iraq to download reams of documents and battlefield video from a classified network, transferred some of the material to his personal computer and sent it to WikiLeaks. Prosecutors also offered evidence that al-Qaida leaders reveled in WikiLeaks' publication of the classified documents, urging members to study them before devising ways to attack the United States. The defense presented evidence that Manning was authorized, even encouraged, to look at a wide

range of classified information as part of his job, rebutting charges he exceeded his authorized computer access. The defense also

produced evidence that some of the information Manning leaked was already publicly known before WikiLeaks published it.



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Bonanno Indictment: Members accused of branching out online and into selling pills

RUSS BUETTNER
WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM
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NEW YORK - An organized crime indictment unsealed in Manhattan on Tuesday had its share of well-worn mob enterprises: extortion, loan-sharking and union control, to name a few.

in Costa Rica. And some of them were recorded making plans to sell hundreds of thousands of pills to treat erectile dysfunction, for at least \$5 each.

The charges in the case come just two weeks after the New York office of the FBI reduced the number

changed since Jimmy Hoffa disappeared, but organized crime still exerts a corrupting influence in our city."

Seven of the accused men were arraigned at state Supreme Court in Manhattan. As police officers led them into a courtroom in



From left: Anthony Santoro, Vito Badamo and Ernest Aiello, alleged members of the Bonanno crime family, during their arraignment in New York, July 9, 2013.

(Robert Stolarik/The New York Times)

It even had an old-school defendant: Nicholas Santora, known as Nicky Mouth, whose exploits were depicted by actor Bruno Kirby in the 1997 film "Donnie Brasco." In the movie, Nicky Mouth was killed.

In real life, Santora is very much alive, and prosecutors say he and a crew of eight other Bonanno crime family members and associates have come up with new ways of generating cash that take less arm twisting.

Prosecutors said the crew ran a multimillion-dollar online sports betting operation

of its agents working mob cases.

That reduction, combined with two previous cutbacks over the last five years, left the bureau with roughly three dozen investigators working mob cases in the city, 60 percent fewer than in 2008.

Cyrus R. Vance Jr., the Manhattan district attorney, said at a news conference that the FBI had been so successful at breaking up organized crime families "that many mistakenly believe that the mob has disappeared entirely."

He added, "Times have

handcuffs, several made profane remarks about the wives and mothers of news photographers. Sitting in the front row with large, tattooed arms protruding from T-shirts, they laughed out loud, elbowed each other and smiled at family members in court.

The indictment accuses two of the defendants of helping another defendant, Nicholas Bernhard, win a 2010 election to become president of Local 917 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, a 1,900-member union on Long Island. □

Vulgarities fly in Bulger trial

RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr

BOSTON - Kevin Weeks, once a surrogate son of the notorious South Boston crime boss James "Whitey" Bulger, issued a threat from the witness stand to Bulger's lawyer in U.S. District Court here Tuesday. Then it got ugly.

Weeks, a key government witness, had testified that he watched Bulger kill four men and one woman. Sometimes, he said, Bulger would then go lie down, leaving others to clean up the bloody mess.

So when it was time for cross-examination, Bulger's lawyer, J.W. Carney Jr., painted Weeks as a lying, selfish thug who had wheedled a sweetheart plea deal of five years in prison for aiding and abetting the murders of five people, all in return for providing evidence against Bulger and others.

Temper rising, Weeks shot back: "What did I win? Five people are dead."

"We killed people that were rats," he added, "and I had the two biggest rats right next to me."

This was a reference to Bulger and another gangster, Stephen "the Rifleman" Flemmi.

Bulger does not like being called a rat, aka an informer. And so the frail-looking 83-year-old defendant in bluejeans, white sneakers and a dark blue shirt spat a vulgarity, his first words in more than 16 years to Weeks, whom he had long treated as a son and groomed as a successor.

Weeks, still on the stand, shouted an expletive of his own, and Bulger replied in kind. Earlier, Weeks had described how tough it was to testify against Bulger, likening him to an older brother. But now, glaring at his former mentor, he added,

"What do you want to do!" With Weeks unhinged, Carney soon rested his cross-examination.

It was the most dramatic day in the trial of Bulger, who was arrested in California in 2011 after 16 years on the run. He has pleaded not guilty to a long list of federal charges, including that he played a role in 19 murders.

Trying to show jurors that Weeks was not to be believed, Carney had tripped up the witness about who might have been the second gunman in a 1982 assassination. He also prodded Weeks to admit that anyone who called him a rat would have "a problem," meaning they would be hurt.

Carney then asked, What if I called you a rat?

Call me that outside and see what happens, Weeks responded.

Carney also elicited this memorable statement from Weeks: "I've been lying my whole life. I'm a criminal."

In macabre yet nonchalant testimony earlier in the day, the witness tied Bulger directly to three killings, with details that combined the mundane and the horrific.

He described how Bulger used a MAC-10 machine pistol to shoot one extortion victim in the head, then "went upstairs and lay down on the couch while we took care of the clean-up."

For that Flemmi offered tips, Weeks said: "He explained to me that cold water helps congeal the blood and everything."

Another time, Weeks said, he watched Bulger and Flemmi garrote and strangle Flemmi's stepdaughter. Then Bulger gave Flemmi a new handle, inspired by his partner's enthusiasm. □



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US Financial Front:

Federal regulators vow to battle abusive bill collectors

JESSICA SILVER-GREEN-
BERG

EDWARD WYATT

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Federal regulators are cracking down on questionable debt-collection practices by some of the nation's biggest lenders. The push comes after revelations that some of the same practices that have haunted the foreclosures of homes - like robo-signing and faulty documentation - have cropped up in efforts to recoup delinquent credit card debt.

The debt collection practices of banks and lenders have long existed in a kind-of regulatory gulf. The primary federal law that governs how companies pursue consumers behind on their bills does not apply to firms that are trying to recoup money that they lent directly to a consumer.

As a result, the lenders - national banks like Capital One and big department stores like Macy's - can hound consumers behind on their bills with repeated calls, even though the practice is restricted by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

But Wednesday, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau plans to assert at a hearing that it has the authority to regulate banks' debt collection practices under the Dodd-Frank financial overhaul law. The act bars the firms from employing "unfair, deceptive or abusive acts."

"It doesn't matter who is collecting the debt - unfair, deceptive, or abusive practices are illegal," Richard Cordray, the agency's director, said in a statement.

Another agency, the Federal Trade Commission,

on Tuesday won a \$3.2 million penalty against Expert Global Solutions, the world's largest debt collection operation, over accusations that the firm harassed consumers.

Adding to the scrutiny, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, a chief bank regulator, is investigating how banks like JPMorgan Chase collect credit-card debt, according to several people close to the matter. The regulator spotted errors in roughly 9 percent of monetary judgments - the dollar amount the bank sought from consumers - won through collection lawsuits filed from 2009 to 2011, these people close to the matter said.

JPMorgan declined to comment, but the bank has been cooperating with regulators to fix problems in its collection lawsuits, according to people briefed on the situation. And in roughly 90 percent of the flawed judgments, the consumers did not pay the full amount, the people said.

JPMorgan also stopped filing new credit card lawsuits in 2011, these people said, because of concerns that some of the underlying documentation was flawed.

In courts across the nation, according to judges, JPMorgan has also been dropping pending lawsuits.

As they work through a glut of soured debts, from credit card balances to overdue auto loans, some of the big lenders are going to court to get what they are owed, according to interviews with judges, lawyers for consumers and federal regulators.

While fewer customers are falling behind on their bills

as the nation moves farther away from the financial crisis, lenders are still working to reduce the amount of bad loans on their books.

In most instances, consumer advocates say, customers acknowledge that they owe money. The problems arise, though, when the

credit card companies and third-party debt collectors run roughshod over legal procedures that govern how the firms can collect money, according to consumer lawyers.

"It's a huge problem where creditors and debt buyers are mass producing fraudulent documents," said Susan Shin, a lawyer at the New Economy Project, which works with community groups in New York. Some lawsuits, the judges and lawyers say, hinge on erroneous documents, quickly thrown together to make up for critical paperwork that is missing like payment histories or the original contracts. □



The Federal Trade Commission, cracking down on questionable debt-collection practices, on Tuesday won a \$3.2 million penalty against Expert Global Solutions, the world's largest debt collection operation, over accusations that the firm harassed consumers.

(Handout Photo)

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Egypt escalates Muslim Brotherhood crackdown

MAGGIE MICHAEL
SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's military-backed government tightened a crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood on Wednesday, ordering the arrest of its revered leader in a bid to choke off the group's campaign to reinstate President Mohammed Morsi one week after an army-led coup. The Brotherhood de-

Morsi, one of its own, and demands nothing less than his release from detention and his reinstatement as president. Security agencies have already jailed five leaders of the Brotherhood, including Badie's powerful deputy, Khairat el-Shaiter, and shut down its media outlets. The prosecutor general's office said Badie, another deputy, Mahmoud Ez-zat, senior member Mo-

ance policy toward the Brotherhood, which was banned under authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak. "This just signals that dictatorship is back," said Brotherhood spokesman Ahmed Aref. "We are returning to what is worse than Mubarak's regime, which wouldn't dare to issue an arrest warrant of the general leader of the Muslim Brotherhood." The Brotherhood's refusal

the safety of the country, it is better to keep him. ... Otherwise, consequences will be dire," he added. Badie had appeared at the Rabaa al-Adawiya rally Friday, a day after an earlier arrest warrant against him was issued, also accusing him of inciting violence. On Wednesday night, he delivered a message to the crowd through a senior Brotherhood leader, an indication that he didn't want to make an appearance and endanger his security.

He spoke of Monday's violence, calling the troops that carried it out "traitors." "They didn't just betray their people ... their leader (Morsi), but they also betrayed God," said Abdel-Rahman el-Bar, a Brotherhood leader, reading from Badie's message.

He urged supporters to stay camped out in the sit-in and mosques, using the holy month of Ramadan to pray for Morsi's deliverance. Badie also sought to dismiss accusations that his group used violence.

"The Muslim Brotherhood has struggled for Egypt's freedom from occupation and oppression. It was and will remain faithful to its promises and peaceful in its positions," the message said. On Friday, Badie had delivered a fiery speech at the rally in person, telling those in the crowd that they will bring Morsi back to the palace on their shoulders. "We are his soldiers. We defend him with our lives," Badie said before disappearing.

Following the speech, thousands of Islamists marched and clashed with Morsi opponents in the heart of Cairo and elsewhere in Egypt, leaving more than 30 dead and 200 injured. □

Syrian rebels reject Russian sarin claims

DIAA HADID

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's main Western-backed opposition group on Wednesday rejected Russian accusations that rebels made sarin nerve gas and used it in a deadly chemical attack outside Aleppo in March. The Syrian National Coalition called the charges "desperate" and "fabricated." Russia is a key ally of President Bashar Assad's regime.

Use of chemical weapons is an explosive issue, potentially guiding whether the West increases its aid to rebel forces.

President Barack Obama called chemical weapons use by the Assad government a "red line," while such accusations against the rebels could reinforce Western misgivings about arming them.

Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vitaly Churkin, blamed opposition fighters for the March 19 attack in the government-controlled Aleppo suburb of Khan al-Assal, which he said killed 26 people, including 16 government troops, and injured 86 others.

The rebels have blamed the government for the attack.

The U.S., Britain and France have said they have seen no evidence that the opposition has acquired or used chemical weapons.

"Evidence provided by parties that support Assad's tyrannical regime with money, weapons, and ammunition is false and clearly fabricated," said the statement by the SNC, a group made up mostly of exiled dissidents. □



A supporter of ousted Egypt's President Mohammed Morsi poses with his photo as army soldiers guard at the Republican Guard building in Nasr City, in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, July 10, 2013.
(AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

nounced the warrants for the arrest of Mohammed Badie and nine other leading Islamists for inciting violence Monday that left dozens dead, saying "dictatorship is back" and vowing it will never work with the interim rulers.

Leaders of the Brotherhood are believed to be taking refuge somewhere near a continuing sit-in by its supporters at the Rabaa al-Adawiya Mosque in eastern Cairo, but it is not clear if Badie also is there.

The Brotherhood is outraged by the overthrow of

hammed El-Beltagy and popular preacher Safwat Hegazy are suspected of instigating the clashes with security forces outside a Republican Guard building near the mosque that killed 54 people — most of them Morsi supporters — in the worst bloodshed since he was ousted.

The Islamists have accused the troops of gunning down protesters, while the military blamed armed backers of Morsi for attempting to storm a military building.

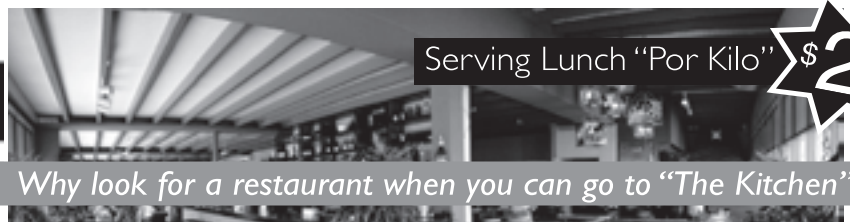
The warrants highlight the armed forces' zero-toler-

to work with the new interim leaders underscored the difficulties they face in trying to stabilize Egypt and bridge the deep fissures that have opened in the country during Morsi's year in office. Morsi has not been seen since the July 3 coup, but Foreign Ministry spokesman Badr Abdel-Atti gave the first official word on him in days, saying he is in a safe place and is being treated in a "very dignified manner." No charges have been leveled against him, Abdel-Atti said.

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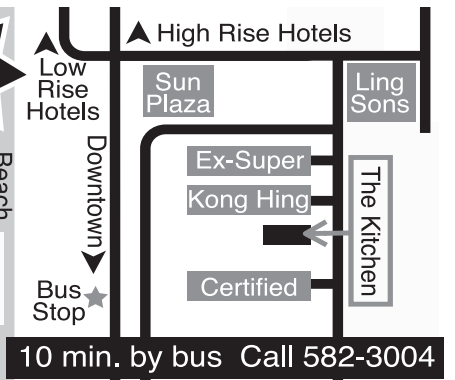


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Koreas end talks on factories with no breakthrough



Suh Ho, the head of South Korea's working-level delegation, right, shakes hands with his North Korean counterpart Park Chol Su as they leave after their meeting at Kaesong Industrial District Management Committee in Kaesong, North Korea, Wednesday, July 10, 2013.

(AP Photo/Korea Pool via Yonhap)

HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Talks between the rival Koreas aimed at restarting a stalled inter-Korean factory park ended Wednesday with no breakthrough, but both sides agreed to meet again next week to discuss restoring what was once a rare symbol of cooperation between the archrivals. They also agreed to a separate set of talks next week on allowing reunions of families that have been separated for decades by the border between North and South Korea, Seoul's Unification Ministry said in a statement. The ministry said Seoul rejected a proposal from

North Korea to discuss resumption of South Korean tours to a North Korean mountain. The Kaesong industrial complex in North Korea, located just over the heavily armed border dividing the two countries, closed in April following North Korea's angry reaction to South Korea's annual military exercises with the United States and alleged insults against the North's top leadership. North Korea has in recent weeks ratcheted down its warlike threats and pursued diplomacy with both Seoul and Washington, though it has not pulled back on its nuclear weapons development as the

U.S., South Korea and other nations demand.

The two Koreas recently agreed on a desire to re-open the complex, but they are still discussing how to do that.

During Wednesday's talks at Kaesong, the rivals again shared the view that the factory complex should be maintained and developed, chief Seoul delegate Suh Ho told South Korean

reporters after the meeting, according to media pool reports. He said the two sides agreed to meet in Kaesong again on Monday.

The Unification Ministry said North Korea proposed additional working-level talks next week — on reunions and the resumption of tours to the Diamond Mountain resort — via an inter-Korean communication channel at

the border village of Panmunjom.

The ministry said Seoul accepted the offer on reunions because of the urgency of that issue, but rejected the offer on mountain tours because it wants to keep the focus on the factory park. It said the Kaesong complex's restart will be a "touchstone for South-North Korean exchange and cooperation." □

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Portugal's Silva: government to stay in power

BARRY HATTON
Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Portugal's president said Wednesday he is keeping faith with the bailed-out country's troubled coalition government and rejecting opposition parties' demands for an early election, though he appealed to all the main parties to put aside their differences and find a broad compromise that will spare the Portuguese from needing a second financial rescue. The government came close to collapse last week when the two coalition partners disagreed over the scale of austerity measures. The finance and foreign ministers resigned, triggering what President Anibal Cavaco Silva called "a grave political crisis" over the past 10 days. The dispute cast doubt on Portugal's ability to comply with the debt-cutting demands of a 78-billion-euro (\$100 billion) bailout it received two years ago. Other countries using the euro currency worried that Portugal's difficulties could hurt the bloc's efforts to escape its prolonged financial crisis.

In a 30-minute broadcast to the nation in a prime-time evening slot, Cavaco Silva said a snap election would be "extremely negative" for Portugal's credibility as it tries to recoup the faith of investors who are keen to see political stability that can push through fiscal and economic reforms in the debt-heavy country.

Holding early elections would consign Portugal to 82 days of virtual political paralysis, Cavaco Silva said. By creating "huge" political and financial instability, a ballot likely would make it necessary for the country to ask for more financial help, he said. He urged the three par-

ties which signed the 2011 bailout agreement — the Social Democratic Party and smaller Popular Party, which are in government, and the main opposition Socialist Party, which was in power at the time of the bailout — to find common ground and "put the national interest above their own parties' interests." □



A television screen in a restaurant displays Portugal's President Anibal Cavaco Silva as he addresses the nation live, in Lisbon, Wednesday, July 10, 2013. In his statement, Cavaco Silva urged the three main Portuguese political parties Social Democrat Party, PSD, Popular Party, CDS, and Socialist Party, PS, that signed the accord with the international creditors, to reach a broad agreement on policy. He also rejected opposition parties' demands for an early election.

(AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

Brazil lawmaker: US spying won't hurt relations

MARCO SIBAJA
Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Disclosures alleging that the United States has collected data on billions of telephone and email conversations in Latin America's biggest country will not affect Brazil-U.S. relations, the head of Brazil's joint congressional committee on intelligence said Wednesday. Congressman Nelson Pellegrino told foreign correspondents in Brasilia that despite Brazil's strong repudiation of the U.S. information gathering activities in Brazil "the good relations we have with the United States will not be interrupted." "We have sent Washington a clear message that we are interested in maintaining good relations, but that we will not accept these

kinds of practices," he said. "We cannot accept that a country spies another, on its citizens, its companies and its authorities." He said President Dilma Rousseff's state visit to Washington October was still on and that it would not be affected by the recent disclosures. Meanwhile Wednesday, Defense Minister Celso Amorim acknowledged that the country invests little in cyber-security, with just \$22 million earmarked in the 2013 budget. Still, he insisted that no amount of money can create a totally secure system. "No country has the capacity to establish absolute protection" of its communication networks, Amorim told the Senate's foreign relations committee. "Even in an ideal situation, there would not be a shield that

could completely protect us." The O Globo newspaper reported last week that information released by National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden showed Brazil is the top target in Latin America for the NSA's massive intelligence-gathering effort aimed at monitoring communications around the world. Snowden's disclosures indicate that the NSA widely collects phone and Internet "metadata" — logs of message times, addresses and other information rather than the content of the messages. The documents have indicated that the NSA has been collecting the phone records of millions of U.S. phone customers, and has gathered data on phone and Internet usage outside the U.S., including those people who

use any of nine U.S.-based internet providers such as Google. Earlier, O Globo reported that in Brazil, the NSA collected data through an association between U.S. and Brazilian telecommunications companies. It said it could not verify which Brazilian companies were involved or if they were even aware their links were being used to collect the data. The Brazilian government is investigating the disclosures and the alleged links with telecommunications firms with a Brazil presence. Congress has asked U.S. Ambassador Thomas Shannon for explanations. President Dilma Rousseff said any such activity infringed upon the nation's sovereignty, and that Brazil would take the issue up at the United Nations. □

Taliban ousts spokesman for 'mistrust'

DECLAN WALSH
ISMAIL KHAN

© 2013 New York Times

LONDON - For years, the spokesman for Pakistan's Taliban has claimed responsibility for suicide bombings, kidnappings, and shootings of schoolgirls and tourists, without a murmur of censure from his bosses.

But now, voicing an even glancing criticism of the Afghan wing of the Taliban movement appears to have been enough to cost him his job.

Leaflets distributed this week in North Waziristan, the main hub of Taliban militancy in Pakistan, announced that the spokesman, who uses the nom de guerre Ehsanullah Ehsan, was being replaced for "creating mistrust" between the Pakistani and Afghan Taliban movements.

Although the leaflet, which was signed by 10 members of the Pakistani Taliban's ruling council, provided no further detail, it was widely seen as a sign of growing strains within the cross-border insurgency movement caused by U.S. drone strikes and the possibility of opening peace talks with the Afghan government.

Some in Waziristan said the spokesman, whose real name is Sajjid Mohmand, according to militants and government officials, had been fired for statements that distanced Pakistan's Taliban movement from tentative attempts to establish a peace process anchored in the city of Doha, Qatar.

Others, including Pakistani security officials, said the spokesman had gotten embroiled in militant infighting in the eastern Afghan province of Kunar, where two Pakistani factions have been engaged in a violent struggle for supremacy.

A third theory posited that the dismissal was linked to a leadership struggle. □

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Netanyahu names key adviser as ambassador to US

JODI RUDOREN

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JERUSALEM - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday named one of his closest advisers, Ron Dermer, to be Israel's next ambassador to the United States, a long-anticipated pick that had raised some concern in Washington because of Dermer's ties to Republicans.

Dermer, 42, a neoconservative who once worked for Frank Luntz, a Republican consultant, was seen by some as questioning President Barack Obama's commitment to Israel during his first term, and of supporting Obama's Republican opponent, Mitt Romney, in last fall's presidential election. But since November, he has worked to repair his reputation in Washington and has won over many in the White House with the critical roles he played in negotiating a cease-fire after Israel's

eight-day operation in the Gaza Strip, reconciling relations between Turkey and Israel and planning Obama's much-heralded March visit to Israel.

Now, several people close to the Obama administration said, any suspicions about Dermer's political leanings are outweighed by the benefit of having an ambassador in Netanyahu's inner circle. He is expected to start the job in the fall, replacing Michael B. Oren, a New Jersey-born historian. "If you have someone you know is well connected to the prime minister it means you can always use that channel, no matter how sensitive the message is, and understand it's going to be communicated the way you want it," noted Dennis B. Ross, a former Middle East envoy who is now counselor to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "It reduces the prospect of

surprise, it reduces the prospect of misunderstanding - that's something that's highly desired."

Dermer was raised in Miami Beach, where his father and brother both served as mayor. He likes to point out that they were Democrats, though the family also supported President George W. Bush and his brother Jeb Bush, the Florida governor, both Republicans. He has a bachelor's degree from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in philosophy, politics and economics from Oxford University. □



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrives to attend a cabinet meeting in Jerusalem. Netanyahu on Tuesday named one of his closest advisers, Ron Dermer, to be Israel's next ambassador to the United States.

(AP Photo/Oded Balilty)

Colombia govt will ask US to explain reported espionage

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's government says it will ask the United States to explain alleged spying on its citizens.

A Foreign Ministry communique says the South American country rejects "acts of espionage that violate the rights and privacy of persons and international conventions."

Brazil's O Globo newspaper reported Tuesday that citizens of Colombia, Mexico and other countries were among the targets of a massive National Se-

curity Agency operation to secretly gather information about phone calls and Internet communications worldwide.

The reports were based on information provided by NSA leaker Edward Snowden.

The Colombian communique of Tuesday night expressed concern and said the government will ask the U.S. to explain, though it did not give details.

Colombia is one of the United States' closest allies in Latin America. □



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Cyberspace is still a distant place for most Cubans

VICTORIA BURNETT

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HAVANA - By the standards of many Cubans, Lazaro Noa García is an adept internaut. He emails his daughter in Mexico a couple of times a week at a cybersalon in an upscale suburb, and checks soccer scores and news on Yahoo. Until last month, though, the closest García, 59, had been to cyberspace was the painfully slow email service at his local post office. Then on June 4, Etecsa, the state telecom company, opened 118 Internet salons around the island, expanding public Web access - by a fraction, at least - in what is regarded as the least wired country in the Western Hemisphere. García, a retired military officer, immediately signed up. "This is like a Three Kings' Day gift," García said of his newfound Internet access, referring to the Jan. 6 holiday when people dressed as the Magi hand out goodies to children. But as gifts go, it is extremely expensive, he said. At \$4.50 an hour, a session at one of the new cybersalons costs almost as much as the average state worker earns in a week, prompting many Cubans to wonder whether President Raúl Castro is serious about bringing the Internet to the masses, or just playing for time.

"At this price, hardly anyone is going to be using it," said García, who figured he could afford to buy an hour or two a week because his daughter helped him out and he had just sold his house. Cuba's limited Internet access is a source of festering resentment among Cubans, millions of whom have never been online. Some people - medics, for example, or

journalists - qualify for a dial-up connection at home. Others use pirated connections, rent time on a neighbor's line or log on at a hotel, where they pay about \$8 an hour. Many trade information on memory sticks or rely on stodgy state-run periodicals for news.

their work. The International Telecommunication Union, a U.N. agency for information and communications technology, puts the number of broadband subscriptions in Cuba at 0.04 per 100 inhabitants, or about one in 2,500. That is lower than in Haiti and Sudan, two plac-

users to sign a contract warning that they will be monitored for subversive activity. Still, he added, the government has "created a conversation around access that didn't exist before."

Harold Cárdenas Lema, 27, a blogger and philosophy

hospital connections complained they were as slow as ever.

Wilfredo González Vidál, vice minister of communications, in an interview with the official news media in May, assured that "the market will not regulate access to knowledge



Cubans wait to use the Internet at a Nauta cybersalon in Havana. A session at one of the new cybersalons, which were opened by the state telecom company, costs almost as much as the average state worker earns in a week, prompting many Cubans to wonder whether President Raul Castro is serious about bringing the Internet to the masses, or just playing for time.

(Jose Gaitia/The New York Times)

"We are living in the back of a cave," said Walfrido López, a Cuban blogger and information technology specialist. "People here are asleep, because they don't have information." He added, "Having information is what enables you to make decisions, take positions." Government figures indicate 26 percent of Cubans had Internet access last year, but this includes millions who entered only an intranet linked to

es that are not considered the least bit tech-friendly. Even Cuba's new cybersalons, which operate under the brand name Nauta, amount to just one for every 95,000 Cubans. The new service is "a gesture of openness within a context of the ability to have monopoly control," said Ted Henken, a professor at City University of New York who closely follows the Cuban blogosphere, noting that Etecsa requires

teacher at the University of Matanzas, said the cybersalons represented a "transcendental" shift because they put a relatively fast, fairly uncensored Internet service at the disposal of individuals. However, the government risks a deep digital divide if it does not cut prices in line with most Cubans' salaries, Cárdenas said. And despite an official pledge to prioritize "social" use of the Internet, he and others using university or

in our country." But Rogelio Moreno Díaz responded in his acerbic blog, Bubusó-pia, that this was "the final insult to the public's intelligence." Then there was the rest of Cuba. Ana Maria Hernández, a retired nurse who was waiting to pay her landline bill in downtown Havana last week, smiled weakly when asked if she might use the new service. "For me, Internet doesn't exist," said Hernández, 51. □



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EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two lovely ladies and a terrific couple whom are all loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort and La Cabana, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Olive Franklin and her sister-in-law Edena Franklin, and Hendrick B. and Nancy A. Marr. They all love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel and Darline S. de Cuba representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Nohely Cannegieter representing the Casa Del Mar, and Sharline Charles representing the La Cabana Beach Resort. □



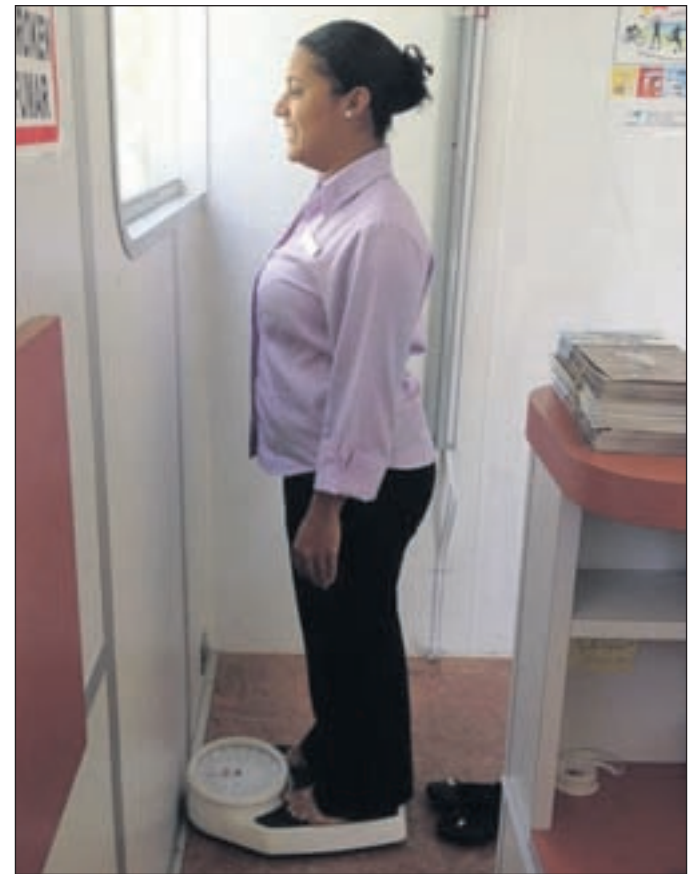
IBiSA Wellness Bus one week at Marriott: Marriott Aruba provides associates health checkup at work



PALM BEACH - As part of Marriott's Spirit to Serve, the Aruba Marriott provided their associates the oppor-

tunity for a health checkup. During the week of 24th till 28th of July the wellness bus of IBiSA, from the Institute of

Healthy Living Aruba was stationed at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino parking lot to inform over two hundred fifty Marriott associates on the guidelines of healthy living. The IBiSA team checked Marriott associates' sugar, blood pressure, cholesterol



**Beauty
On The
Beach**

*Maaïke
Peek*

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and weight and gave them an extensive explanation on the following wellness guidelines: 1. Eat sufficient amounts of fruits and vegetables, whole-wheat bread, nuts and fish. 2. Drink at least 7-8 glasses of water a day. 3. Avoid fat, sugar and salt. 4. Exercise/move for at least 60 minutes a day. This can be e.g. 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the evening. 5. Sleep at least 7-8 hours a night. 6. Try to be relaxed. 7. Cigarettes and alcohol should be avoided. If you

do enjoy an alcoholic beverage try not to drink every day and keep it to a 2 drinks a day maximum. 8. Harmony, peace and happiness in family, social and work environments are an essential part of your overall wellbeing. The feeling of being safe is a vital part of your overall wellbeing.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino would like to thank the entire team of IBiSA for their dedication and their efforts during this week. □

Usher To Perform At Curaçao North Sea Jazz!

CURACAO - It has just been announced that 8 time Grammy Award and 17-time Billboard Award winner Usher will perform at the Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival on Saturday 31 August! With Usher we complete our impressive festival program. We earlier announced Diana Ross, The Roots, Marc Anthony, Toto, Luis Miguel and many others. Usher has sold over 50 million albums worldwide and was named most successful artist of 2000-2010 by Billboard. His album Confessions (2004) has sold millions of copies and is listed as the best solo-album of that decade. In the U.S., Usher has had no less than nine Hot 100 Number One Hits and seventeen Hot 100 Top Ten singles. Usher has worked with artists such as Beyonce, Alicia Keys, Shakira, Jay-Z and even Enrique Iglesias. Usher is everywhere, from Broadway to the Super Bowl. He is co-owner of the NBA Cleveland Cavaliers, has his own fragrance line, and a business venture with RBMG (Raymond Braun Media

Group), the home base of superstar Justin Bieber. He has realized that with success comes responsibility. Usher has also proven to be a major philanthropic force. Founded in 1999, his New Look Foundation empowers youths to become leaders. In recognition of his achievements, Usher has been honored by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Trumpet Foundation, Do Something, the NAACP, and as the 2010 Ford Freedom Award Scholar. On his critically acclaimed seventh studio album, Looking 4 Myself, Usher has taken bold steps into unexpected musical territory. For this album, Usher worked with a wide range of producers and artists, including Diplo, Swedish House Mafia, Max Martin, will.i.am, and Empire of the Sun. These cooperations and his own active role as songwriter has lead to an album with electro dance beats combined with that typical Usher R&B, pop and hip-hop sound. Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival 2013:



--Friday 30 August:
Sam Cooke stage: Toto - Diana Ross - Marc Anthony
Celia stage: Gladys Knight - Sonny Rollins - Oumou Sangaré
Sir Duke stage: New Cool Collective - Raphael

Saadiq - Erykah Badu
Etta James stage: Kris Berry - Mud Morganfield - Sabrina Starke
And the Hot 8 Brass Band will also play
--Saturday 31 August:
Sam Cooke stage: Luis Mi-

guel - Usher
Celia stage: Paul Anka - Edmar Castaneda - Christian McBride Big Band
Sir Duke stage: Esperanza Spalding Radio Music Society - Los Lobos - The Roots
Etta James stage: Pernelle Saturnino and Friends featuring Miguel Zenón - Sherry Dyanne - Kizzy McHugh
And the Hot 8 Brass Band will also play
--In the week prior to the festival:
Brionplein on Sunday 25 August - FREE CONCERT of: Israel & New Breed
Brionplein on Monday 26 August - FREE CONCERT of El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico
Brakkeput Mei Mei on Wednesday 28 August: Al Di Meola
Brakkeput Mei Mei on Thursday 29 August: José James
Tickets for the festival can be purchased through 522-JAZZ, the official sales locations and www.ticketmaster.com.
The Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival is made possible by: Fundashon Bon Intenishon. □

Jolly Pirates Hosts Aruba Salsa Dance Club!

MALMOK- Jolly Pirates Sailing and Snorkeling Cruises hosts aboard forty enthusiastic classmates and instructors from the Aruba Salsa Dance Club.

Hips began to move and ladies were twirled from the moment the trade winds snapped the Schooner's sails to life on the memorable sunny afternoon when Aruba Salsa Classmates joined the Jolly Pirates. With a festive open bar and the very best Bachata and Salsa music selected by Reggie, lead dance instructor and founder of Aruba Salsa, the party goes immediately turned the Jolly Pirates decks into their own lively dance floor. Once the ship arrived at its mooring, the Pirate's Rope Swing was the dancers' next call to action. Eager dancers queued up to perform their talents of their own fly and dive. Captain Edwin of the Jolly Pirates explains, "Our teak

decks were full of fun and primed for adventure". The pirate crew was impressed with the dancing and joined the classmates. Spirits certainly remained buoyed with the high energy dance club from Aruba



Salsa, Aruba's most favorite place to learn to dance. Energetic salsa combinations with ladies styling were danced and the classmates hips shook and the twirling continued as the

music played while the sun set, pink hued across the horizon. Classmates were in agreement that that Salsa trip aboard the Jolly Pirates Ship was a huge success and the trip would soon be repeated.

Give the Jolly Pirates a shout for more information. Call 586-8107 for your reservations or visit the Jolly Pirates Souvenir gift shop located at MooMba Beach for ticket sales. □

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Oakland slugger Yoenis Cespedes in HR Derby

NEW YORK (AP) — Yoenis Cespedes of the Oakland Athletics will swing for the fences in the Home Run Derby next Monday night, rounding out the eight-player field.

Major League Baseball announced Tuesday evening that Cespedes has been selected by American League captain Robinson Cano of the New York Yankees. MLB revealed the other participants Monday, saying Cano's final pick had not yet been finalized. Cespedes will become the fourth player not chosen for the All-Star game to compete in the event. The others were Rafael Palmeiro (2004), Hee-Seop Choi (2005) and Ryan Howard (2007).

The other members of the AL squad are Baltimore slugger Chris Davis and Detroit's Prince Fielder.



Oakland Athletics' Yoenis Cespedes drops his bat after hitting an RBI single off Cincinnati Reds' Bronson Arroyo in the third inning of a baseball game Tuesday, June 25, 2013, in Oakland, Calif.
Associated Press

National League captain David Wright of the hometown New York Mets selected Washington's

Bryce Harper and Colorado teammates Carlos Gonzalez and Michael Cuddyer. □

Former pitcher Rucker: PEDs made MLB 'better game'

CLEVELAND (AP) — John Rucker is still making noise, a decade after the disgraced pitcher last played in the big leagues.

Rucker told a Cleveland radio station this week that performance-enhancing drugs made Major League Baseball "more entertaining" during the Steroids Era.

Rucker told WKRC-FM: "Honestly, and this may go against what some people think from an ethical standpoint, I think it was the better game." "At the end of the day

when people are paying their \$80, \$120 whatever it may be, to buy their ticket and come watch that game, it's almost like the circus is in town," he said. "They want to see some clown throw a fastball 101 mph and some other guy hit it 500 feet. That's entertainment."

Rucker was suspended in 2000 after making disparaging remarks. He later admitted he used steroids.

The 38-year-old Rucker now works on behalf of homeless veterans. □

Trades, new contracts become official around NBA

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

Just about every NBA team would like Dwight Howard. Only the Houston Rockets could get him, and on Wednesday a couple of his other suitors announced their backup plans — while one lost out on another big target.

Paul Millsap is headed to Atlanta. The Golden State Warriors acquired Andre Iguodala. But the Dallas Mavericks missed out on another center when Andrew Bynum agreed to sign with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The Los Angeles Clippers never had to look beyond their top target, with Chris Paul committing to stay on the first day of free agency. They also added Dar-

ren Collison, Jared Dudley and J.J. Redick to a team that won the Pacific Division last season, surpassing the Lakers as the best team in Los Angeles.

"We're loaded at every position," said Matt Barnes, who re-signed with the Clippers. "Who doesn't want to play with Chris? He's arguably the best point guard in the game. It just shows this organization has come a long way. They're making the right moves."

It's hard to see anything changing in Los Angeles next season after Howard decided not to stay with the Lakers and instead opted for the Rockets in a deal that still hadn't become official as of Wednesday night.

That was the first day transactions could be completed and contracts signed following the completion of the NBA's moratorium period. The Rockets couldn't wait to talk about their All-Star center, getting fined \$150,000 by the league on Tuesday for premature comments about Howard on TV and in social media.

The rest of the league waited until rules allowed Wednesday.

The Clippers held a press conference for Paul, the three new players and the re-signed Barnes and Ryan Hollins on what Paul called "one of the biggest days in franchise history."

While they were celebrating, Bynum was meeting with Dallas, another team

that wanted Howard. But he went with a previous two-year offer from the Cavs, according to a person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was not yet announced.

Bynum was part of the four-team trade that sent Howard from Orlando to Los Angeles last summer, but never played a game for Philadelphia because of knee problems.

Charlotte got bigger by adding Utah center Al Jefferson, while his former Jazz teammate Millsap is also bound for the Southeast Division with the Hawks.

Atlanta missed out on Howard, and forward Josh Smith left for a \$54 million, four-year deal with Detroit, but the Hawks bounced

back by giving Millsap a two-year, \$19 million contract.

"We've been following Paul for a year, hoping for the opportunity to have him on our team," general manager Danny Ferry said. "His competitiveness, night in and night out, is unique. He's not like most players." The Jazz also got involved in the deal that landed Iguodala with the Warriors, who gave him a four-year, \$48 million deal last week. Golden State cleared more than \$24 million by sending Richard Jefferson, Andris Biedrins and Brandon Rush to the Jazz along with four draft picks and cash. Denver received guard Randy Foye from the Jazz.

Continued on Page 20

Lynx rout Dream in matchup of top teams

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Monica Wright had a season-high 22 points to help the Minnesota Lynx rout the Atlanta Dream 94-72 on Tuesday night in a matchup of the top teams in the WNBA.

Lindsay Whalen added 20 points for Minnesota, which never trailed and extended its home winning streak to 15 games.

Angel McCoughtry scored 16 points to lead Atlanta, which was playing for the first time in July. The Dream entered the game as the league's top defensive team only to see Minnesota shoot better than 60 percent in the first half. Minnesota's 94 points were the most surrendered by Atlanta this season.

Liberty 66, Storm 57

At Newark, New Jersey, Plenette Pierson scored nine of her 22 points in the fourth quarter as the New York Liberty recovered after giving up nearly all of a 19-point lead in the third quarter and beat the Seattle Storm 66-57.

Cappie Pondexter had 13 points for New York, which had lost three straight and five of the last six.

Tina Thompson scored 13 points and Tanisha Wright added 12 for the Storm (5-8), losers of five of their last six. Seattle lost three of four on a road swing against Eastern Conference teams. □

Minnesota Lynx guard Monica Wright (22) tries to pass the ball through the defense of Atlanta Dream forward Sancho Lyttle (20) and guard Alex Bentley (2) in the second half of a WNBA basketball game, Tuesday, July 9, 2013, in Minneapolis. Wright scored most points with 22 and the Lynx won 94-72.

Associated Press



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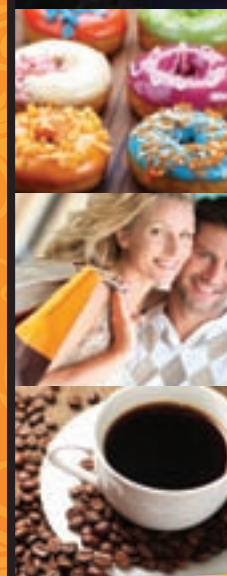
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NBA

Continued from Page 18

Chris Andersen signed a \$1.7 million, one-year deal to stay with the Miami Heat, who will have to hold off some stronger challengers next season in the Eastern Conference. Indiana resigned power forward David West and added C.J. Watson as a backup point guard, while the Chicago Bulls improved their outside shooting by signing Mike Dunleavy.

The New York Knicks hope they did, too, with the acquisition of Andrea Bargnani. However, the former No. 1 overall pick from Italy struggled during an injury-plagued 2012-13 season for the Toronto Raptors, who shipped him to New York for Steve Novak, Quentin Richardson, Marcus Camby and three future draft picks.

The NBA's other big deal of the offseason, the trade sending Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce from Boston to Brooklyn, will be completed Friday. The Nets could pay more than \$70 million in taxes in the first season of the NBA's harsher penalties for teams who exceed the limit. □



Los Angeles Clippers head coach Doc Rivers stands in front of players, from left, Matt Barnes, Darren Collison, Jared Dudley, Ryan Hollins, Chris Paul and J.J. Redick as the Clippers announce updates and additions to their NBA basketball team roster at their headquarters in Los Angeles Wednesday, July 10, 2013. Associated Press

NBA salary cap set at \$58.7 million

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA has set next season's salary cap at \$58.7 million, paving the way for contracts to be signed starting Wednesday. The tax level is \$71.7 million, with harsher penalties

starting this season for teams that exceed it. Teams formerly paid \$1 for every \$1 they were over, but the penalties now start at \$1.50 per dollar for teams up to \$4.9 million over, with increases from there.

Contracts such as the one Dwight Howard agreed to with Houston couldn't be signed during the league's moratorium period while the cap was calculated. The cap is a slight increase from this season's

\$58 million. The mid-level exception for non-taxpayers is \$5.15 million. It's \$3.2 million for teams over the tax, and there's a mid-level worth \$2.7 million for teams with room under the salary cap. □

Rangers RHP Darvish placed on DL with bad back

BALTIMORE (AP) — Yu Darvish has been placed on the 15-day disabled list by the Texas Rangers and will miss the All-Star Game next week.

Darvish has a mild strain in his upper back. The move was announced Wednesday and is retroactive to July 6.

The right-hander was scheduled to pitch against Baltimore on Thursday, but has been scratched. He's 8-4 overall, but has won only once in his last nine starts. Darvish leads the majors with 157 strikeouts. He has a 3.02 ERA.

Rangers assistant general manager Thad Levine says, "At this stage, it's not something we are really worried about." He says the injury "was a little more fatigue than anything."

In a statement, Darvish said, "I don't think it's a big issue, but just as a precaution, I'd rather skip a start than push it through." □



Texas Rangers starting pitcher Yu Darvish of Japan delivers to the Cincinnati Reds in the first inning of a baseball game Sunday, June 30, 2013, in Arlington, Texas. Associated Press

U.S. defeat Belize 6-1; Costa Rica beats Cuba 3-0



USA's Landon Donovan (10) controls a pass as the U.S. beat Belize, 6-1, in a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match at Jeld-Wen Field in Portland Tuesday night July 9, 2013

Associated Press

ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Chris Wondolowski scored a first-half hat trick as the United States opened its CONCACAF Gold Cup campaign on Tuesday with a 6-1 victory over Belize, which was making its debut in the tournament. Landon Donovan added a goal and two assists, becoming the first player with at least 50 career goals and 50 assists for the national team. Costa Rica defeated Cuba 3-0 in an earlier match at the same venue. Wondolowski is the third American to score three goals in a Gold Cup match, joining Donovan and Brian McBride. The United States has won four Gold Cups since the tournament's inception in

1991. Mexico has won the past two. The 12-team tournament includes national teams from North and Central America and the Caribbean and is played every two years. The U.S. men were coming off a 6-0 rout of Guatemala in a friendly warmup match on Friday, when Donovan scored twice to extend his American record to 51 international goals. That was Donovan's first match following a five-month break from the national team, after he was left out of the squads for the June World Cup qualifying matches. Wondolowski, who scored his first international goal against Guatemala, struck early against Belize when he knocked in a rebound from goalkeeper Shane

Orio in the 12th minute. He scored again in the 36th and 40th minutes, either side of Ian Gaynair's header past U.S. goalkeeper Nick Rimando that gave Belize its first goal in the tournament. Donovan created scoring chances for Stuart Holden in the 58th and Michael Orozco in the 72nd — taking his career tally to 51 assists for the national team — finished off the scoring with a penalty in the 76th. In the earlier match, Michael Barrantes scored a pair of second-half goals for Costa Rica. Barrantes broke open a scoreless match with a left-foot goal from the top of the box that beat diving Cuban goalkeeper Odelin Molina in the 51st minute. He added another goal in

the 77th minute after Jairo Arrieta's scored in the 71st, extending Cuba's winless streak to 12 straight Gold Cup matches. "The way we managed the ball, we were able to create some opportunities and we were able to score," Costa Rica coach Jorge Luis Pinto said.

The four Group C teams will next play Saturday in Salt Lake City, with the U.S. facing Cuba followed by Belize against Costa Rica. The winners and runners-up from each group, and the two top third-place finishers, advance to the knockout round. □

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SUN & HOL. 2:20 | 5:10 | 8:00

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SUN & HOL. 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35

THE WAY WAY BACK
PG-13
MON - FRI 4:40 | 7:05
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ALSO SHOWING!

DESPIZABLE ME 2
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THE LONE RANGER
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SUN & HOL. 9:30

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MONSTERS UNIVERSITY
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Stafford signs \$53M, 3-year extension with Lions



Detroit Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford smiles while talking about his contract extension in Allen Park, Mich., Wednesday, July 10, 2013.

Associated Press

LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

ALLEN PARK, Michigan (AP)

— Quarterback Matthew Stafford signed a \$53 million, three-year extension with the Detroit Lions on Wednesday to stay under contract for \$76.5 million over the next five NFL seasons. The deal came a month after the 25-year-old Stafford answered another round of questions about his future with the team. "I don't want to go for the next three years talking about, 'Well, you've got two years left. You've got one year left; now you're getting franchised,'" said Stafford, who had two years left on the deal he signed as the No. 1 overall pick in the 2009 draft. "That's just something I'm not about. I want to be about the team. I want to help the team out if I can in cap space, whatever it is. I want good players around me as a quarterback." The deal will pay him an-

other \$41.5 million in guarantees, and he signed the contract to answer the question about where he'll play in the near future. "It was important too to remove that dialogue," Lions President Tom Lewand said. "Not that Matthew would let it become a distraction or that we would let it become a distraction. This way we avoid that." The deal clears some salary cap space for a franchise desperately seeking success with only one play-off victory since winning the 1957 NFL title. Detroit hasn't won much in large part because its last Pro Bowl quarterback was Greg Landry in 1971. Detroit drafted Stafford out of Georgia and signed him to a six-year contract worth as much as \$78 million with \$41.7 million in guarantees. Following two injury-stunted seasons, he helped the Lions earn a spot in the playoffs in 2011 for the first time since 1999. □



Beads of sweat pour down as Tony Martin of Germany strains during the eleventh stage of the Tour de France cycling race, an individual time trial over 33 kilometers (20.6 miles) with start in in Avranches and finish in Mont-Saint-Michel, western France, Wednesday July 10 2013.

Associated Press

Tour leader Froome strikes big blow to rivals

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

MONT-SAINT-MICHEL, France (AP)

— Half-way through the Tour de France, Chris Froome appears unstoppable after pulverizing his main rivals in Wednesday's time trial. Although Froome missed out on his second stage win of the centenary Tour by 12 seconds to winner Tony Martin of Germany, second place on stage 11 still felt like a big victory for the British rider since all of his challengers were at least two minutes slower than him. "My biggest race today was with the other GC riders," Froome said. "I've extended my lead so I'm very happy with that." Spanish rider Alejandro Valverde is still in second place overall but 3 minutes, 25 seconds adrift of Froome, while Alberto Contador improved to fourth but is 3:54 behind. Meanwhile, the 2010 Tour champ Andy Schleck and 2011 winner Cadel Evans lost massive time and may not want to look at the results. "I'm happy with my shape," Froome said. "I think I've shown in the mountains that I can hold my own,

and time trial also."

As the two-time world time trial champion, Martin did not disappoint over the 33-kilometer (20.5-mile) route in Normandy from Avranches to the breathtaking island citadel of Mont-Saint-Michel. "Hats off to Tony Martin," Froome said. "It just goes to show what class he has." Froome was quicker over the first two time splits but slowed down in the last section and Martin won in just over 36 minutes. "I'm not sad at all with that," said Froome, who also finished second behind countryman Bradley Wiggins on last year's longer time trial. "I gave that time trial everything I had." He was the only rider to get within a minute of Martin, with Belgian Thomas De Gendt 1:01 behind in third. Martin's win was even more special considering that he lost consciousness on his team bus after his heavy crash on stage 1. The accident was so bad that his left lung was bruised and layers of skin were shredded off his back. "At night, I couldn't sleep either on my left or right sides or on my back," Martin said.

He was not the only one having sleepless nights. His mother Bettina Martin said at the finish line of his first-day crash, "I was very shocked, very worried, and needed a long time before I was back to normal again." Still, nothing would deter Martin, who won the penultimate stage of the 2011 Tour, also a time trial, and finished second to Wiggins in the time trial at the London Olympics. "The goal was always to continue the Tour de France because it's a big honor," Martin said. "When doctors said 'OK,' I kept the focus on today's stage. I knew I would not be 100 percent for the team time trial (last week), but I had a good chance to recover for today. "There are still some deeper wounds that are left to heal but it's not that painful anymore." Others had a more painful day. Contador looked stern-faced and tense when he prepared to start — and with good reason. The Spaniard finished in 15th place, 2:15 behind Martin; Evans was 2:30 slower, and Schleck finished 4:44 behind Martin. □

First Apple computer sells at auction for \$387,750

NEW YORK (AP) — An original Apple computer from 1976 has sold at auction for nearly \$388,000.

Known as the Apple 1, it was one of the first Apple computers ever built.

It sold Monday for \$387,750 at a Christie's online-only auction. Bolaffi, an Italian collections company, says in a statement that it bought the computer. The seller was a retired school psychologist from Sacramento, California.

Vintage Apple products have become a hot item since Steve Jobs' death in October 2011. □



An Apple 1 computer for sale at auction is seen in a Monday, June 24, 2013 file photo, at the Computer History Museum in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

Investors buying bankrupt Israel electric car firm

JERUSALEM (AP) — A group of investors has taken over the remains of Israel's bankrupt electric car venture, pledging to give the project another boost.

The electric car company Better Place filed for liquidation in May, less than six years after unveiling a plan promising to revolutionize the auto industry by reducing the world's oil dependency.

As recently as last August, the company was valued

at \$2 billion.

On Wednesday, an Israeli court allowed a consortium that included Better Place car owners and entrepreneurs to purchase its assets for less than \$12 million.

Efi Shahak, who heads Israel's electric car drivers association, said the group was committed to maintaining Israel's 2,000 charging spots and its battery swap services. He said the takeover gives "Israel a second chance to get it right." □

The price of surveillance: U.S. gov't pays to snoop

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — How much are your private conversations worth to the U.S. government? Turns out, it can be a lot, depending on the technology.

In the era of intense government surveillance and secret court orders, a murky multimillion-dollar market has emerged. Paid for by U.S. tax dollars, but with little public scrutiny, surveillance fees charged in secret by technology and phone companies can vary wildly. AT&T, for example, imposes a \$325 "activation fee" for each wiretap and \$10 a day to maintain it. Smaller carriers Cricket and U.S. Cellular charge only about \$250 per wiretap. But snoop on a Verizon customer? That costs the government \$775 for the first month and \$500 each month after that, according to industry disclosures made last year to Congressman Edward Markey. Meanwhile, email records like those amassed by the National Security Agency through a program revealed by former NSA systems analyst Edward Snowden probably were collected for free or very cheaply. Facebook says it doesn't charge the government for access. And while Microsoft, Yahoo and Google won't say

how much they charge, the American Civil Liberties Union found that email records can be turned over for as little as \$25.

Industry says it doesn't profit from the hundreds of thousands of government eavesdropping requests it receives each year, and civil liberties groups want businesses to charge. They worry that government surveillance will become too cheap as companies automate their responses. And if companies gave away customer records for free, wouldn't that encourage uncalled-for surveillance? But privacy advocates also want companies to be upfront about what they charge and alert customers after an investigation has concluded that their communications were monitored.

"What we don't want is surveillance to become a profit center," said Christopher Soghoian, the ACLU's principal technologist. But "it's always better to charge \$1. It creates friction, and it creates transparency" because it generates a paper trail that can be tracked.

Regardless of price, the surveillance business is growing. The U.S. government long has enjoyed access to phone networks and high-speed Internet traffic under the U.S. Communications

Assistance for Law Enforcement Act to catch suspected criminals and terrorists. More recently, the FBI has pushed technology companies like Google and Skype to guarantee access to real-time communications on their services. And,

programs, field offices and case funds. In an emailed statement, the agency said when charges are questionable, it requests an explanation and tries to work with the carrier to understand its cost structure. Technology companies

the cost of accommodating government surveillance requests increased. AT&T, for example, said it devotes roughly 100 employees to review each request and hand over data. Likewise, Verizon said its team of 70 employees works around the clock, seven days a week to handle the quarter-million requests it gets each year.

To discourage gratuitous requests and to prevent losing money, industry turned to a section of federal law that allows companies to be reimbursed for the cost of "searching for, assembling, reproducing and otherwise providing" communications content or records on behalf of the government. The costs must be "reasonably necessary" and "mutually agreed" upon with the government. From there, phone companies developed detailed fee schedules and began billing law enforcement much as they do customers. In its letter to Markey, AT&T estimated that it collected \$24 million in government reimbursements between 2007 and 2011. Verizon, which had the highest fees but says it doesn't charge in every case, reported a similar amount, collecting between \$3 million and \$5 million a year during the same period. □



This June 28, 2013 photo shows the outside of a Verizon switching station in downtown Washington. In the era of intense government surveillance and secret court orders, a murky multimillion-dollar market has emerged.

Associated Press

as shown by recent disclosures about the NSA's surveillance practices, the U.S. intelligence community has an intense interest in analyzing data and content that flow through American technology companies to gather foreign intelligence. The FBI said it could not say how much it spends on industry reimbursements because payments are made through a variety of

have been a focus of law enforcement and the intelligence community since 1994, when Congress allotted \$500 million to reimburse phone companies to retrofit their equipment to accommodate wiretaps on the new digital networks.

But as the number of law enforcement requests for data grew and carriers upgraded their technology,

US stocks move sideways after Fed releases minutes

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market turned quiet Wednesday and just managed to notch a fifth straight day of gains.

Even the release of minutes from the latest meeting of the Federal Reserve didn't jolt stocks.

Two major U.S. stock indexes were barely changed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose a fraction of a point to 1,652.62. The Dow Jones industrial average eased 8.68 points, or 0.1 percent, to 15,291.66.

Every move the Fed has made in recent months has been analyzed. Wednesday's minutes from the June policy meeting were no exception.

But the minutes offered no surprises. The report showed many Fed members want to see further job gains before cutting back on the central bank's stimulus measures. It also showed some divisions among officials over when the Fed should slow that stimulus.

"I don't think the minutes offered anything that would change (my) view of the market's direction or the Fed's intentions,"

said Quincy Krosby, market strategist for Prudential Annuities. The small gain in the S&P 500 kept alive its winning streak. The index has now risen five days, its best streak in two months. Investors have become more confident about the economy after the strong June jobs report. The index is up 2.9 percent in July after falling 1.5 percent in June, its first monthly decline since October.

In another sign of confidence, small-company stocks continued their surge. The Russell 2000, which represents 2,000 publicly traded companies with small market valuations, rose 2.4 points, or 0.2 percent, to a record 1,020.42.

The Nasdaq, meanwhile, is at its highest level since October 2000. The Nasdaq gained 16.5 points, or 0.5 percent, to 3,520.76. Despite its rise, the index would still have to rise 43 percent to match its all-time high of 5,048 reached March 10, 2000, the peak of the dot-com bubble.

Investors are watching earnings results for the second quarter, which ended 10 days ago. Analysts ex-

pect earnings growth to average 2.8 percent for companies in the S&P 500, according to data from S&P Capital IQ.

The expected growth isn't spectacular and that makes it more likely that companies could beat analysts' estimates, said Eric Wiegand, senior portfolio manager at U.S. Bank

Wealth Management.

"We have very low expectations," Wiegand said.

Family Dollar Stores was a case in point. The discount retailer said Wednesday that its quarterly earnings fell 3 percent. But the earnings topped analysts' estimates, and the stock surged \$4.55, or 7.1 percent, to \$68.50, making it

the biggest gainer in the S&P 500. Dollar General was the second-biggest gainer in the index, rising \$2.98, or 5.75 percent, to \$54.78. In government bond trading, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.68 percent from 2.64 percent late Tuesday. As recently as early May, the yield was 1.63 percent.



Specialist Frank Babino, right, and trader Michael Urkonis works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, July 10, 2013. Stocks nudged higher in early trading Wednesday, but went sideways for the rest of the day after the Federal Reserve releases minutes from its most recent meeting.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Yum's profit falls in 2Q but China trends improve

NEW YORK (AP) — KFC's parent company Yum Brands Inc. says its profit fell in the latest quarter but that sales trends were recovering in its critical China division, which is working to recover from an Avian flu scare.

The company, which also owns Pizza Hut and Taco Bell, said sales restaurants open at least a year were down 10 percent in China for June, an improvement from the 19 percent drop in May.

In addition to the bird flu scare, Yum is still trying to shake off the lingering effects of a controversy over its chicken suppliers late last year. The supplier controversy sprang up after Chinese TV report revealed in December that some suppliers were giving chickens unapproved levels of antibiotics.

"The news has dissipated regarding Avian flu and any of the residual effects of the antibiotic situation," said Jonathan Blum, a Yum spokesman.

As such, he said the company is no longer actively running any marketing campaigns addressing either issue.

China is an important region for Yum, which has benefited greatly from the country's rapid economic growth in recent years. The company has more than 5,900 locations in China, most of them KFC locations, making it the biggest Western fast-food operator on the ground. Although it

has more than 37,000 locations globally, its China division has a disproportionate impact on profits because the company owns most its restaurants there, while it primarily franchises locations in the rest of the world. Back at home in the U.S., sales at restaurants open at least a year rose 2 percent at Taco Bell, which has benefited enormously from the launch of Doritos-flavored tacos. The chain is trying to capitalize on the success of the tacos and recently rolled out a Cool Ranch variety, with another flavor expected soon.

The sales figure, which is an important indicator because it strips out the impact of newly opened and closed locations, rose 3 percent at KFC, which recently introduced new boneless chicken pieces.

At Pizza Hut, □

The price of crude oil jumped almost 3 percent to the highest level in 16 months after the U.S. government reported another steep decline in the nation's supplies. Oil rose \$2.99 to \$105.71 a barrel in New York.

The price of gold rose \$1.5, or 0.1 percent, to \$1,247.40 an ounce.

Among stocks making big moves:

— Hewlett-Packard rose 46 cents, or 1.8 percent, to \$25.93 after a Citigroup analyst raised his rating on the company. The analyst doubled his price target for the stock, saying the PC maker's turnaround efforts are taking hold.

—Fastenal, an industrial and construction supplies distributor, fell \$1.33, or 2.8 percent, to \$45.77 after the company reported that its second-quarter revenue fell short of analysts' estimates. □



A car pulls up to a combination Kentucky Fried Chicken, Taco Bell in Doral, Fla. KFC's parent company Yum Brands Inc. says its profit fell in the latest quarter but that sales trends were recovering in its critical China division.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

China's trade data is weaker than forecast

BETTINA WASSENER

© 2013 New York Times

HONG KONG - Chinese trade data for June came in much weaker than expected Wednesday, offering the latest evidence that the Chinese economy has lost much of its vigor.

Exports fell 3.1 percent from a year earlier, in the first drop since early 2012, the customs department reported, and imports decreased 0.7 percent, falling for the second month in a row. Both figures were far below the expectations of analysts, who had projected a 4 percent rise in exports and an 8 percent climb in imports.

The weak import data underlined slack demand within China.

The export slump reflected weak overseas demand, but analysts said it was also partly attributable to a recent government crackdown on false export reporting by companies that had been seeking to bypass currency controls and move money into the country as a way to place a bet on further appreciation of the currency, the renminbi.

The strengthening currency and rising wages in China have helped erode the country's competitiveness at a time when demand from export markets like the United States remains lackluster.

Growth in China has been cooling for many months as Beijing's new leadership seeks to shift the economy from a credit-driven and increasingly outdated growth model. For years, China has relied on heavy manufacturing, state-sponsored investment and exports to power growth. Aware of the limits of these growth drivers, China is now seeking to foster more domestic demand and raise productivity.

Policymakers have also been seeking to rein in the rapid credit growth that has built up in recent years and created potential risks to the economy. □

Kroger Inc. buys rival grocer Harris Teeter

STEPHANIE CLIFFORD

© 2013 New York Times

Kroger is signing up for a bigger dose of fruits and vegetables. In what may

in a deal valued at \$2.5 billion. Harris Teeter's annual sales in 2012 were only \$4.5 billion, or less than 5 percent of Kroger's. The up-



A Kroger supermarket in Madeira, Ohio. Kroger announced this week that it would buy Harris Teeter, an upscale grocer known for fresh foods and produce, in a deal valued at \$2.5 billion.
(Handout Photo)

strike shoppers as an odd union, Kroger, the nation's second-largest retailer, announced Tuesday that it would buy Harris Teeter, an upscale grocer known for fresh foods and produce,

scale regional grocer has 212 stores concentrated in the Carolinas and in the Washington, D.C., region that will expand Kroger's national footprint into areas with growth potential

and affluent shoppers. Kroger hopes to learn from Harris Teeter's expertise in fresh foods and private-label goods, among other things, according to Kroger's chief executive, David B. Dillon.

The deal was attractive to Kroger, which is based in Cincinnati, because Harris Teeter's margins were better than the national chain's, analysts said. It will not involve changing Harris Teeter's brands or name, a localized strategy that has been critical to Kroger as it competes against Wal-Mart, its chief rival whose low prices have dented Kroger's gross margins by several points in the past decade or so.

Grocery made up 55 percent of Wal-Mart's \$275 billion in U.S. sales in 2012.

"Kroger absorbed the brunt of the Wal-Mart incursion into the food space frontally long before everyone else," said Jonathan P.

Feeney, an analyst at Janney Capital Markets.

In keeping the Harris Teeter name, its North Carolina headquarters and much of its top management, Kroger is adhering to an approach it has used in other parts of the country. While it operates stores under its own name, Kroger also maintains several regional units, including Ralphs, Dillons, King Soopers, Fred Meyer and Q.F.C. "What we're trying to do is not so much a plan of going in and taking over their stores and putting things in place there, which, if I was a customer I actually would be a little afraid of that," Dillon said. "In the beginning, I don't think shoppers will see any difference." He said that he believed the best U.S. grocery chains felt local to customers, and keeping the names of places like Harris Teeter or Q.F.C. was important in reinforcing that loyalty. □

Barnes & Noble forced to rethink digital business

JULIE BOSMAN

© 2013 New York Times

William Lynch was brimming with the enthusiasm of a startup entrepreneur. It was January 2012, and Lynch, Barnes & Noble's chief executive, was showing off the company's shiny Palo Alto, Calif., offices, a 300-person outpost that was the center of its e-reader operations.

He and other executives proudly displayed their new devices, talked about plans to expand and promised that the bookstore chain could go head to head with Silicon Valley's giants.

"We're a technology company, believe it or not," Lynch said.

But only 16 months later, Barnes & Noble's digital plans are crumbling. Last month, a disastrous earnings report coincided with the company's announcement that it would no longer manufacture color tablets. And Monday, Barnes & Noble announced that Lynch, the young, tech-savvy archi-

tect of the company's digital strategy, had resigned. A new chief executive was not named.

That leaves the nation's only major bookstore chain without a clear path forward, reviving fears among publishers, authors and agents - who are deeply dependent on a viable Barnes & Noble - about its future.

Barnes & Noble executives have acknowledged one fact: The digital business that was to be the centerpiece of its growth strategy must be retooled.

After introducing its first black-and-white e-reader, called the Nook, in 2009, Barnes & Noble joined the tablet race, a move that industry experts have pointed to as a source of the company's troubles. Barnes & Noble's inexpensive color tablets aimed for a niche in the market below the iPad. But while the company grabbed close to 25 percent of the e-book market, its digital division was getting pummeled by larger competi-

tors and bleeding money.

"Barnes & Noble was in a Catch-22. They had to do something in digital, and Nook was their best shot at it," said Peter Wahlstrom, a retail analyst with Morningstar Equity Research. "William Lynch had a good vision, but he was

man Leonard Riggio with a much more visible and powerful role within the company. Riggio, who built the company into a national force, is known to cherish the physical bookstores. His increased influence, analysts said, could shift the company's focus



Nearly a month after Barnes & Noble said that it would no longer manufacture color tablets, chief executive of Barnes & Noble William Lynch resigned, leaving no clear path forward, reviving fears among publishers, authors and agents about the company's future.
(Peter DaSilva/The New York Times)

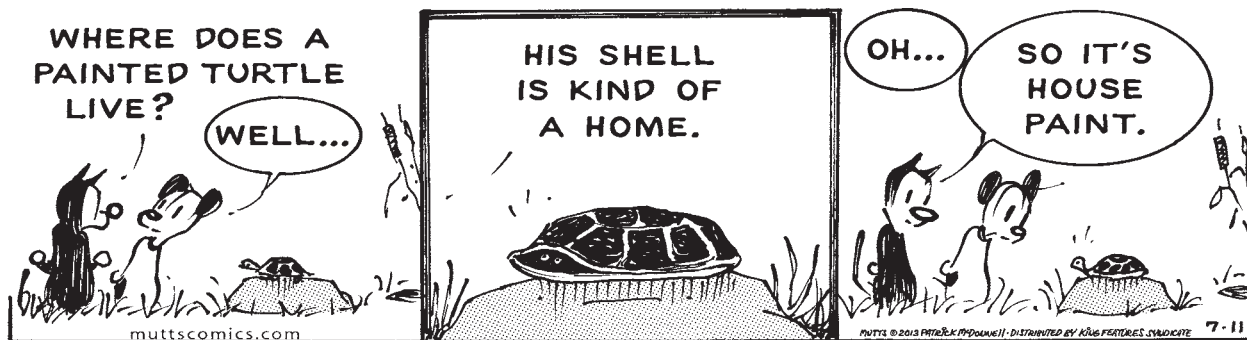
overwhelmed and fighting with one hand behind his back."

Lynch's departure, which took effect immediately, left Barnes & Noble Chair-

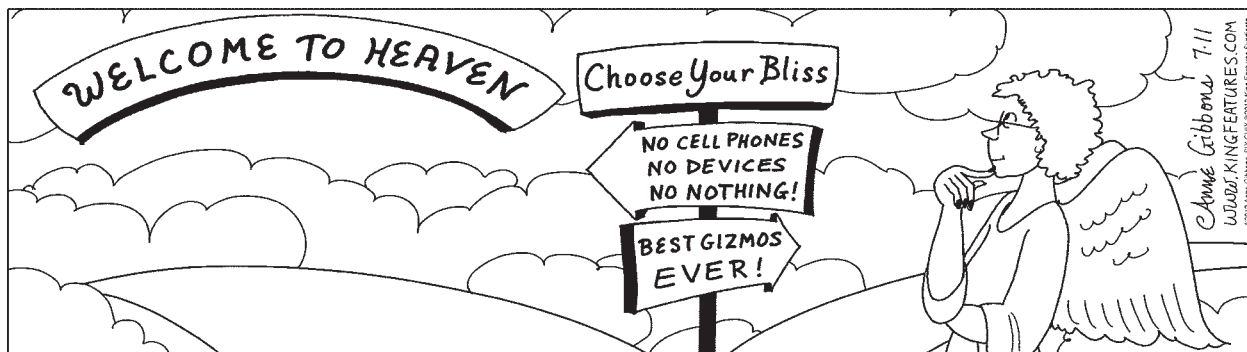
man Leonard Riggio with a much more visible and powerful role within the company.

Riggio, the public face of Barnes & Noble for decades, declined an interview request Tuesday. □

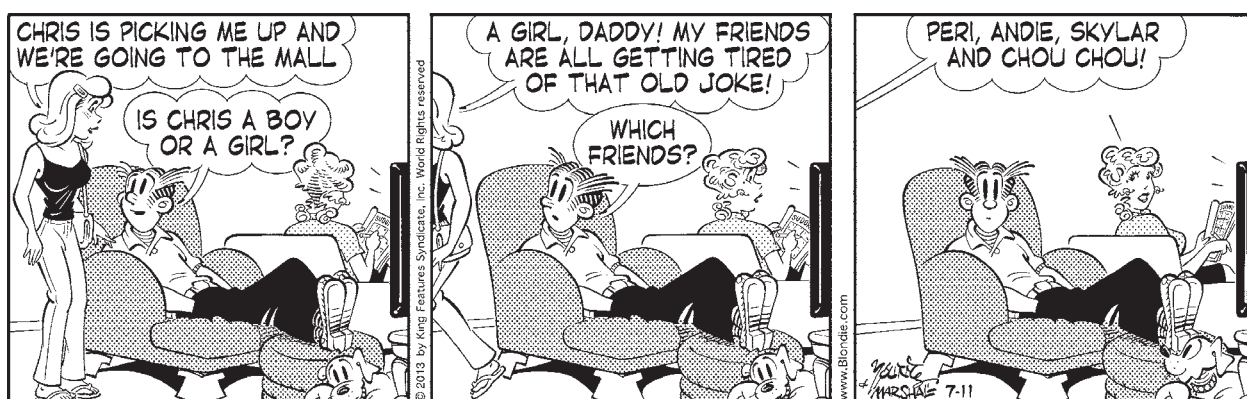
Mutts



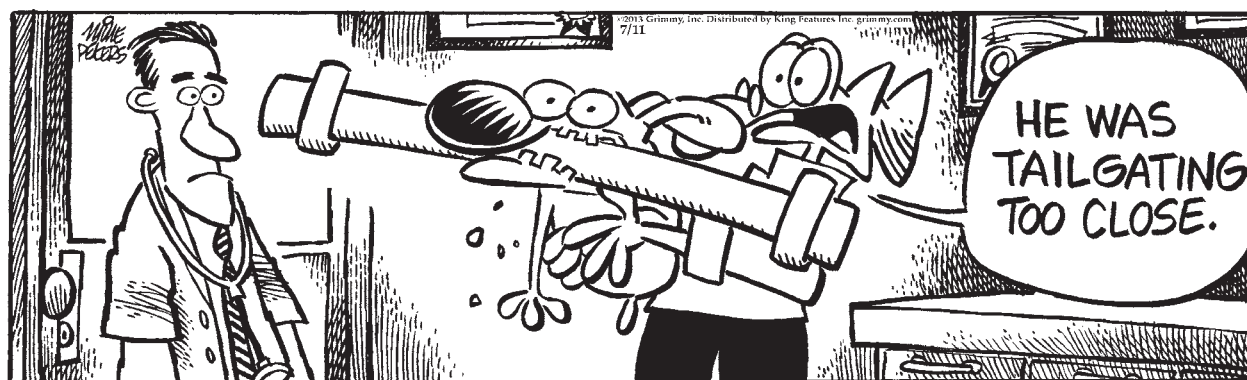
6 Chix



Blondie



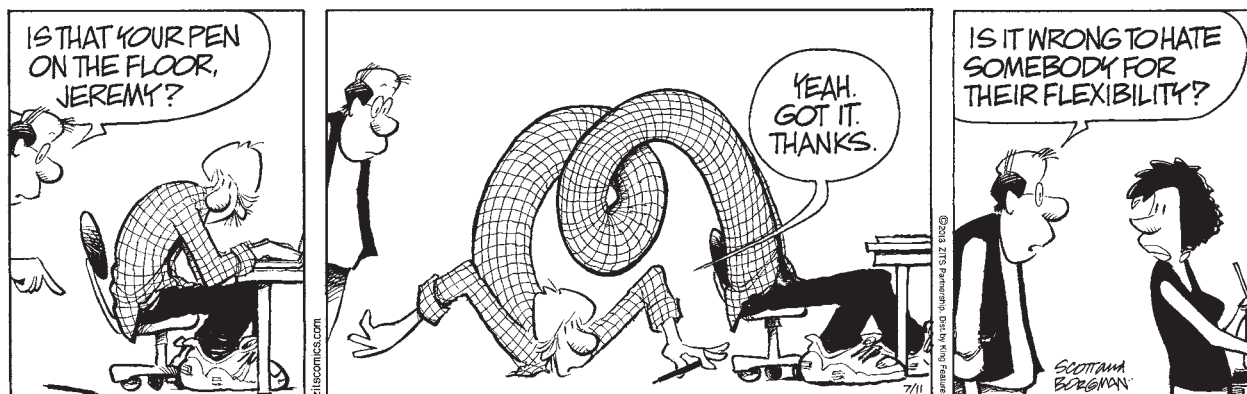
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			7	5	6			
		9		2		4		
	7						8	
7								8
5	2						7	3
4								1
	5						2	
		1		9		7		
			2	6	5			

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

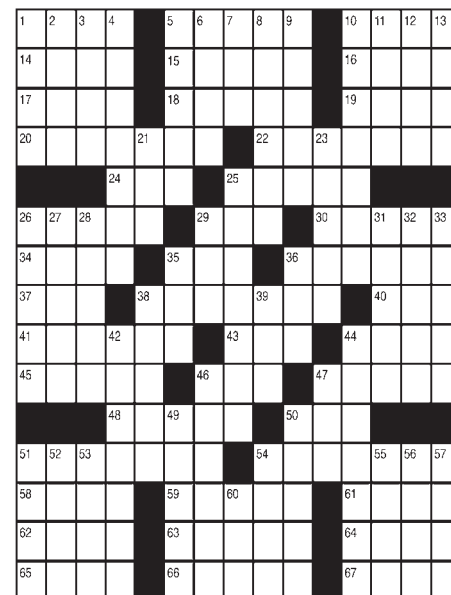
8	9	4	3	1	6	2	5	7
1	3	5	7	2	9	4	6	8
6	7	2	8	5	4	3	9	1
4	2	6	1	3	7	9	8	5
5	8	7	9	4	2	1	3	6
9	1	3	6	8	5	7	4	2
7	6	1	4	9	8	5	2	3
3	5	9	2	6	1	8	7	4
2	4	8	5	7	3	6	1	9

ACROSS

- Race loser of Aesop's fable
- Post office purchase
- Baby carriage
- "Sesame!"; Ali Baba's cry
- Broader
- Spaghetti sauce brand
- In case
- Confuse
- a test; passes easily
- Ultra
- Spookiest
- Inventor — Whitney
- Closest planet to Earth
- Evening coffee, perhaps
- Malia, to Sasha
- Uses a Kindle
- Unusually growth
- Enemy
- Scoundrel
- Suffix for alien or domestic
- Tranquil
- Endeavor
- Compensated
- Apprehend
- Part of the foot
- Astaire & Dryer
- Boy
- Rice field
- Snake's poison
- Talk on and on
- Mockingly derisive
- Guadalcanal heroes
- Heron's cousin
- Entire spectrum
- Grow fatigued
- Merriment
- Gladden
- Related
- Group of cattle
- Landlord's collections
- Take care of

DOWN

- Bagel's center



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

DICK	STEAK	LAVA
ROLE	HEAVE	EPIC
AWAY	RESENTMENT	
GAS	PENT	ROSES
	SPEWS	CAN
MAILED	HOISTS	
AWFUL	BRIAN	RAW
MAIM	FAULT	TAXI
ARE	BEGET	JANES
EDDIES	MOUSSE	
ODD	COATI	
SCENE	DARN	TWO
MARASCHINO	TIED	
OMIT	AARON	HOLD
GENE	BYTES	ENDS

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- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 39 Passing craze | 51 Audible breath |
| 42 Counseled | 52 Qualified |
| 44 Natural | 53 Bleacher level |
| 46 Setting; site | 54 Mixed breed |
| 47 for the | 55 Athletic shoe brand |
| course; usual | 56 Actress Moran |
| 49 African nation | 57 Transmit |
| 50 Microsoft's Bill | 60 Gent |

Feeling New York's heat, and dealing with it

ARIEL KAMINER

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - It is no mystery why the 10-month-old boy was so happy out in the middle of a heat wave rather than back in his climate-controlled home. He was playing in sprinklers, and sprinklers beat air-conditioners. This is a matter of settled law. But how to explain the cheerfulness of Andrea Brunner, 23, the unsprinkled au pair watching over the boy at Marcus Garvey Park in Manhattan?

"I hate the cold," she said. "I just love the heat. A day like this, I could be in the sun all day."

All across the heat-struck New York region, most people who could do so were taking shelter in the great indoors - in their air-conditioned homes, their offices, their public libraries or even the frozen food sections of their local supermarkets.

But as in previous periods of hot weather, some fraction of the population sought refuge in the one environment least likely to provide it: the stultifying streets of the breezeless city. Kamilla Arsaeva, 27, sunbathing atop a tall stone pedestal in Carl Schurz Park, on the Upper East Side, looked as though she had found the highest rack in the great urban broiler in an effort to get that much closer to the blazing sun. But her motivation was more down-to-earth. "I'm sun-tanning in a thong and I felt uncomfortable to be in the grass, so I came up here," she explained.

Regarding the temperature, however, she felt no discomfort. "I'm very tolerable to the heat," she said. "Right now it's perfect."

Awa Mbaye, 49, an immigrant from Senegal who was more regally attired in an enormous flowered gown with matching head wrap, said it was not tolerable at all. "It's too much," she said. "In America, when it's cold it's cold, when it's hot it's hot. But today? It's too much today."

Nonetheless she, too,

braved the elements, under the awning of the Garolo African Market.

"For me is better to come outside," Mbaye said, "because when you come inside you spend a lot on the Con Edison."

New York City opened its cooling centers on Friday and kept them open, in varying numbers through Monday. Christopher Miller, a spokesman for

Service.

It was all thanks - or no thanks - to a vast high pressure system keeping the clouds away, leaving the sun unobstructed as it baked down on buildings and sidewalks, and holding merciful breezes at bay. That high-pressure air has begun to move on. On Wednesday, the temperature is expected to be close to



Kamilla Arsaeva sunbathes atop a tall stone pedestal, which she said was more comfortable than down in the grass, in Carl Schurz Park, in New York, July 5, 2013. When the temperature is in the 90s, some get wet and others stay indoors, while a brave few go outside and soak it up.

(Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)

the Office of Emergency Management, said that was only one reason the city came through the worst of the heat without any evident fatalities. He cited various city programs, like the Department for the Aging's case management network, along with something more basic: "I think New Yorkers, too, check in on each other and care."

By the thermometer, the readings in Central Park were 90 on Friday, 92 on Saturday, 92 on Sunday, 89 on Monday and 88 on Tuesday.

"But the real story is the humidity," said Lauren Nash, a meteorologist with the National Weather

90 in some areas, with scattered showers and thunderstorms. The high will not be back in the lower 80s until the end of the week.

One wilting afternoon during the long holiday weekend, Jeff Hyslop, 34, contemplated the weather and made what seemed to him a perfectly reasonable choice: He headed to Herald Square for Bikram yoga, where the temperature is a reliable 105 degrees, with 40 percent humidity. "I don't know what else am I going to do," he asked, his white windowpane shirt soaked through before the 90-minute class had even begun. □

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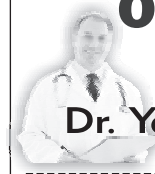
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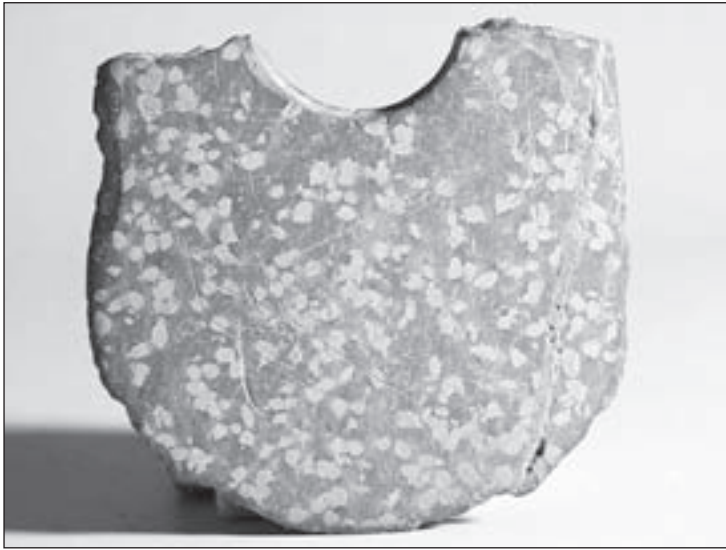
Women in Difficulties

Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002



In this undated photo, markings etched on an unearthed piece of a stone ax are seen near Zhuangqiao grave relic, in Pinghu, in eastern China's Zhejiang province.

Associated Press

DIDI TANG

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Archaeologists say they have discovered some of the world's oldest known primitive writing, dating back about 5,000 years, in eastern China, and some of the markings etched on broken axes resemble a modern Chinese character.

The inscriptions on artifacts found at a relic site south of Shanghai are about 1,400 years older than the oldest written Chinese language. Chinese scholars are divided over whether the markings are words or something simpler, but they say the finding will shed light on the origins of Chinese language and culture.

China discovers primitive, 5,000-year-old writing

The oldest writing in the world is believed to be from Mesopotamia, dating back slightly more than 5,000 years.

Chinese characters are believed to have been developed independently.

Inscriptions were found on more than 200 pieces dug out from the Neolithic-era Liangzhu relic site. The pieces are among thousands of fragments of ceramic, stone, jade, wood, ivory and bone excavated from the site between 2003 and 2006, lead archaeologist Xu Xinmin said.

The inscriptions have not been reviewed by experts outside the country, but a group of Chinese scholars on archaeology and ancient writing met last weekend in Zhejiang province to discuss the finding.

They agreed that the inscriptions are not enough to indicate a developed writing system, but Xu said they include evidence of words on two broken stone-ax pieces.

One of the pieces has six word-like shapes strung together to resemble a short sentence.

"They are different from the symbols we have seen in the past on artifacts," Xu said. "The shapes and the fact that they are in a sentence-like pattern indicate they are expressions of some meaning."

The six characters are arranged in a line, and three of them resemble the modern Chinese character for human beings. Each shape has two to five strokes.

"If five to six of them are strung together like a sen-

tence, they are no longer symbols but words," said Cao Jinyan, a scholar on ancient writing at Hangzhou-based Zhejiang University. He said the markings should be considered hieroglyphics.

He said there are also stand-alone shapes with more strokes. "If you look at the composition, you will see they are more than symbols," Cao said.

But archaeologist Liu Zhao from Shanghai-based Fudan University warned that there was not sufficient material for any conclusion.

"I don't think they should be considered writing by the strictest definition," Liu said. "We do not have enough material to pin down the stage of those markings in the history of ancient writings." □

Report:

Next Mars rover should gather rocks, and soil

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The next rover to Mars should hunt for signs of ancient life and gather rocks that a future mission could bring back to Earth for the first time, a team of scientists appointed by the U.S. space agency said Tuesday. The scientists' new report outlines ambitious goals for a mission to Mars that NASA wants to launch in 2020.

The plan marked the first concrete step toward returning a piece of Mars to Earth, but NASA said it's unclear how or when the cache would be retrieved. "We're not signing up to a timetable or a commitment for a follow-on mission," said NASA sciences chief John Grunsfeld, adding that it's up to future planners to decide the next steps.

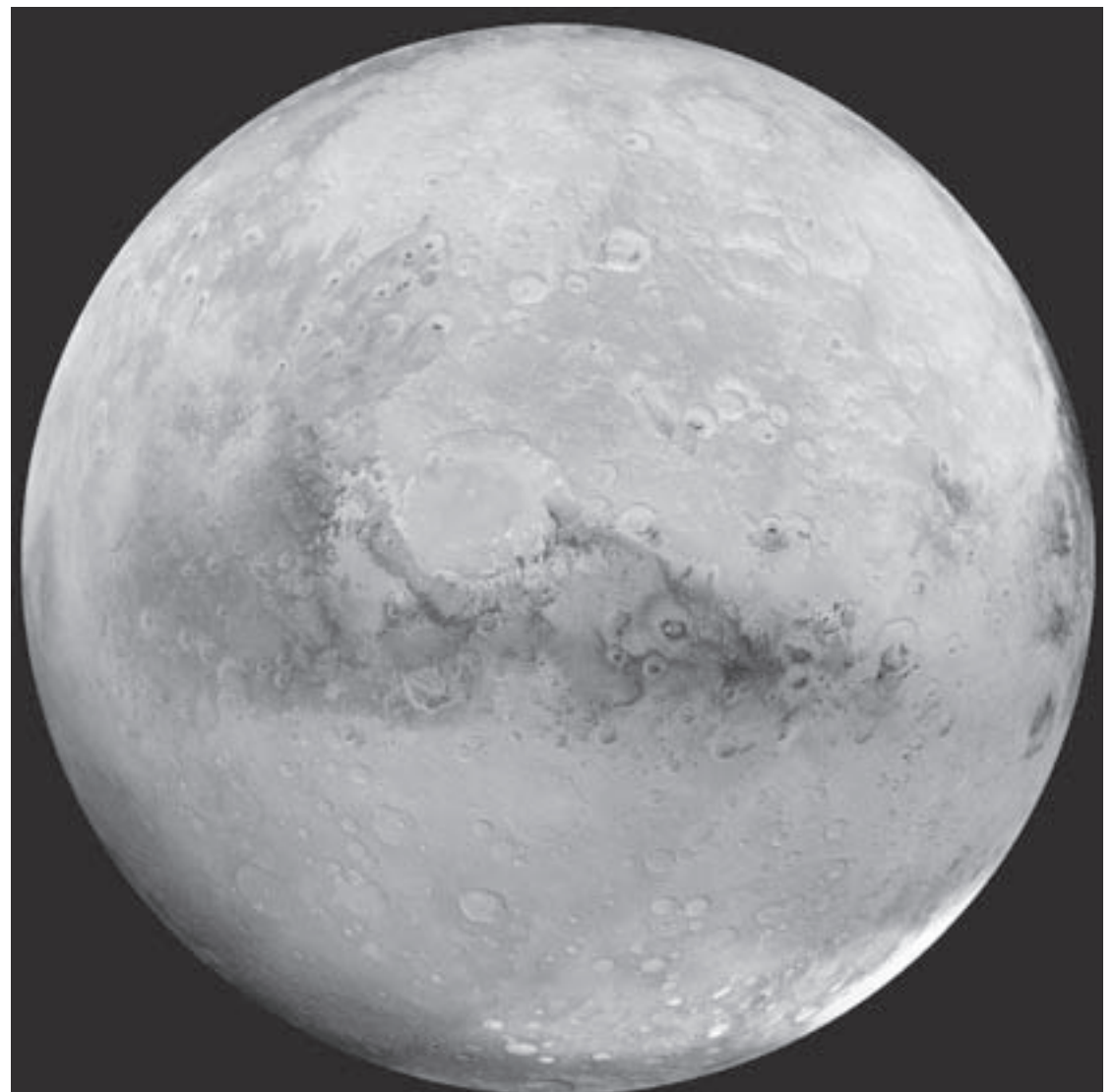
NASA has the ultimate say

on what the future rover will accomplish within its \$1.5 billion budget, excluding the cost of the launch vehicle. The rover will be modeled after Curiosity, which captivated the world last year with its daring controlled-crash landing near the Martian equator.

Despite the successful touchdown, the \$2.5 billion mission ran over budget and faced technical problems during development. To save money, engineers will dust off Curiosity's blueprints and reuse spare parts where possible.

The future rover would build on discoveries of past Mars missions. Spirit and Opportunity, launched in 2004, uncovered plenty of geologic evidence of past water. Curiosity found a habitable environment where microbes could thrive.

Scientists want Curiosity's



This photo released by NASA shows a view of Mars that was stitched together by images taken by NASA's Viking Orbiter spacecraft.

Associated Press

successor to carry high-tech instruments that can peer at rocks on a microscopic level in search of

chemical clues that might have been left behind by microbes, if they existed. Since the Martian surface

is a harsh environment with no signs of water, the panel said it didn't make sense to look for current life. □

Doctors: Randy Travis in congestive heart failure

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— Country music star Randy Travis is showing signs of improvement but remains in critical condition with congestive heart failure because of a viral illness, doctors said Wednesday.

Drs. William Gray and Michael Mack described Travis' condition in a video statement. "His condition has stabilized, and he has shown signs of improvement," Mack said.

The 54-year-old Grammy Award-winning singer was in good health until three weeks before he was hospitalized, when he contracted a viral upper respiratory infection, Gray said. The viral illness led to a weakened heart muscle that eventually worsened into heart failure.

Travis was taken to the emergency room on Sunday. The singer underwent



In this June 7, 2013 file photo, Randy Travis performs on day 2 of the 2013 CMA Music festival at the LP Field in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

a procedure to have a pump inserted by catheter that helps increase blood flow.

The illness comes as Travis has been trying to put his life back together after a

series of embarrassing public incidents involving alcohol. Travis pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated in January following an arrest last year and received two years of probation and a

\$2,000 fine. He was required to spend at least 30 days at an alcohol treatment facility and complete 100 hours of community service. He recently made several public appearances, in-

cluding a poignant performance at George Jones' funeral.

Travis is a traditional country purist who is a pivotal figure in the genre best known for his hits "Forever and Ever, Amen" and "Three Wooden Crosses." His Warner Bros. debut album "Storms of Life" sold 3 million copies and helped return country music to its roots.

"I always feel like he's part of our family, he's in our family," singer Keith Urban said Wednesday. □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

Elisabeth Hasselbeck of 'The View' joining Fox

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Elisabeth Hasselbeck is leaving the desk at "The View" for the couch on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends."

The news network said Tuesday that Hasselbeck will join co-anchors Steve Doocy and Brian Kilmeade on the three-hour morning show "Fox & Friends" in September. Wednesday will be her last day after a decade on "The View."

Hasselbeck parlayed her popularity as a contestant on the TV reality show "Survivor" into a job on Barbara Walters' ABC daytime show in 2003. During her decade on the show, she authored two cookbooks. She's politically more conservative than her co-hosts on "The View," which often led to some contentious moments. Fox News Chairman and CEO Roger Ailes said that Hasselbeck's "warm and engaging personality made her a star" and an "excellent conversationalist." She replaces Gretchen Carlson, who will be given her own daytime show on Fox, Ailes said.

"When Elisabeth survived 'Survivor,' we wanted to make sure she would stay afloat," Walters said. "We have had 10 wonderful years with her and she will now be swimming in new waters. We will miss her and wish her everything good."

Rumors that Hasselbeck was leaving first surfaced in March, drawing a heated denial from Walters at the time. She also said it was not true that Hasselbeck's political views made her unpopular in the executive suites at "The View."

Her views won't be a problem on "Fox & Friends," which is popular with a conser-



In this Feb. 11, 2010 file photo, television personality Elisabeth Hasselbeck arrives at The Heart Truth's Red Dress Collection 2010 fashion show in New York.

Associated Press

vative audience. The talk show is the most popular cable news program in the morning.

Hasselbeck's departure is part of a year of turnover at "The View." Joy Behar, one of the show's original panelists, is also leaving. Walters, who developed the show, is retiring from television next spring. That leaves Whoopi Goldberg and Sherri Shepherd as the remaining panelists. Jenny McCarthy, the former Playboy playmate who currently hosts a show on VH1, has been mentioned as a possible new panelist. □



This image from an eight-second film clip provided by the National Archives shows President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, right, aboard the U.S.S. Baltimore in Pearl Harbor in July 1944, depicting a secret not revealed to the public until after his death. Person at left is unidentified.

Associated Press

U.S. prof: Film shows FDR In concealed wheelchair

CHARLES WILSON

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A professor at an Indiana college says he has found film footage showing President Franklin Delano Roosevelt being pushed in his wheelchair, depicting a secret that was hidden from the public until after his death. Ray Begovich, a journalism professor at Franklin College south of Indianapolis, said Tuesday he found the eight-second clip while conducting unrelated research in the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. The National Archives and the FDR Presidential Museum and Library couldn't say for certain if other such footage exists but both said it is at least rare.

Roosevelt contracted polio in 1921 at age 39 and was unable to walk without leg braces or assistance. During his four terms as president, Roosevelt often used a wheelchair in private, but not for public appearances. News photographers cooperated in concealing Roosevelt's disability, and those who did not found their camera views blocked by Secret Service agents, according to the FDR Presidential Museum and Library's website.

"This raw film clip may be the first motion picture images of the president in his wheelchair, and it was never meant to be shown

to the world," Begovich said.

Bob Clark, supervisory archivist at the Roosevelt library in New York, said he wasn't aware of any other similar film.

A spokeswoman for the National Archives concurred. "With respect to whether or not this is the earliest or only existing footage of FDR in a wheelchair, we cannot state that this is definitively the case, although such footage is certainly rare," Laura Diachenko said in an email.

The film shows Roosevelt visiting the U.S.S. Baltimore at Pearl Harbor in July 1944. Eight seconds of the clip show Roosevelt exiting a doorway on the ship and being escorted down what is apparently a ramp. The wheelchair is not clearly visible because the view of the president is screened by a line of sailors, but Roosevelt's distinctive white hat can be seen gliding past the men at a lower level. Roosevelt, at 6-foot-2 (1.88 meters), was likely taller than most of the soldiers. Although Roosevelt's disability was virtually a state secret during his presidency, which spanned the Great Depression and most of World War II, it has become an inspiration to advocates who successfully pushed for a statue of him in his wheelchair to be added to the Roosevelt Memorial in Washington. □

Samuel Beckett manuscript sells for \$1.4 million

LONDON (AP) — Sotheby's says the manuscript of Irish writer Samuel Beckett's first novel has sold at auction for almost 1 million pounds (\$1.5 million).

Britain's University of Reading bought "Murphy," written in 1935-36, for 962,500 pounds (\$1.4 million) at

Wednesday's sale.

The six exercise books contain the heavily reworked text of the novel as well as notes, doodles and sketches of figures including James Joyce and Charlie Chaplin.



An undated photo made available by Sotheby's showing part of a set of Samuel Beckett jotters.

Associated Press

Its many revisions give insights into Beckett's creative process. There are eight rejected versions of the novel's opening line — "The sun shone, having no alternative, on the nothing new."

The university's vice chancellor, David Bell, said acquiring the manuscript "will provide unparalleled opportunities to learn more about one of the greatest writers in living memory, if not all time." □

Defining Prosperity Down



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Friday's employment report wasn't bad. But given how depressed our economy remains, we really should be adding more than 300,000 jobs a month, not fewer than 200,000.

As the Economic Policy Institute points out, we would need more than five years of job growth at this rate to get back to the level of unemployment that prevailed before the Great Recession. Full recovery still looks a very long way off.

And I'm beginning to worry that it may never happen.

Ask yourself the hard question: What, exactly, will bring us back to full employment?

We certainly can't count on fiscal policy.

The austerity gang may have experienced a stunning defeat in the intellectual debate, but stimulus is still a dirty word, and no deliberate job-creation program is likely soon, or ever.

Aggressive monetary action by the Federal Reserve, something like what the Bank of Japan is now trying, might do the trick. But far from becoming more aggressive, the Fed is talking about "tapering" its efforts.

This talk has already done real damage; more on that in a minute.

Still, even if we don't and won't have a job-creation policy, can't we count on the natural recuperative powers of the private sector? Maybe not.

It's true that after a protracted slump, the private sector usually does find reasons to start spending again. Investment in equipment and software is already well above pre-recession levels, basically because technology marches on, and businesses must spend to keep up. After six years during which hardly any new homes were built in America, housing is trying to stage a comeback. So yes, the economy is showing some signs of healing itself.

But that healing process won't go very far if policymakers stomp on it, in particular by raising interest rates.

That's not an idle worry. A Fed chairman famously declared that his job was to take away the punch bowl just as the party was really warming up; unfortunately, history offers many examples of central bankers pulling away the punch bowl before the party even starts.

And financial markets are, in effect, betting that the Fed is going to offer another such example.

Long-term interest rates, which mainly reflect expectations about future short-term rates, shot up after Friday's job report - a report that, to repeat, was at best just OK.

Housing may be trying to bounce back, but that bounce now has to contend with sharply rising financing costs: 30-year mortgage rates have risen by a third since the Fed started talking about relaxing its efforts about two months ago.

Why is this happening? Part of the reason is that the Fed is constantly under pressure from monetary hawks, who always want to see tighter money and higher interest rates.

These hawks spent years warning that soaring inflation was just around the corner. They were wrong, of course, but rather than change their position they have simply invented new reasons - financial stability, whatever - to advocate higher rates. At this point it's clear that monetary hawkery is mainly a form of Puritanism in H.L. Mencken's sense - "the haunting fear that someone, somewhere may be happy." But it remains dangerously influential.

Unfortunately, there's also a technical issue that plays into the prejudices of the monetary hawks.

The statistical techniques policymakers often use to estimate the economy's "potential" - the maximum level of output and employment it can achieve without inflationary overheating - turn out to be badly flawed: They interpret any sustained economic slump as a decline in potential, so that the hawks can point to charts and spreadsheets supposedly showing that there's not much room for growth.

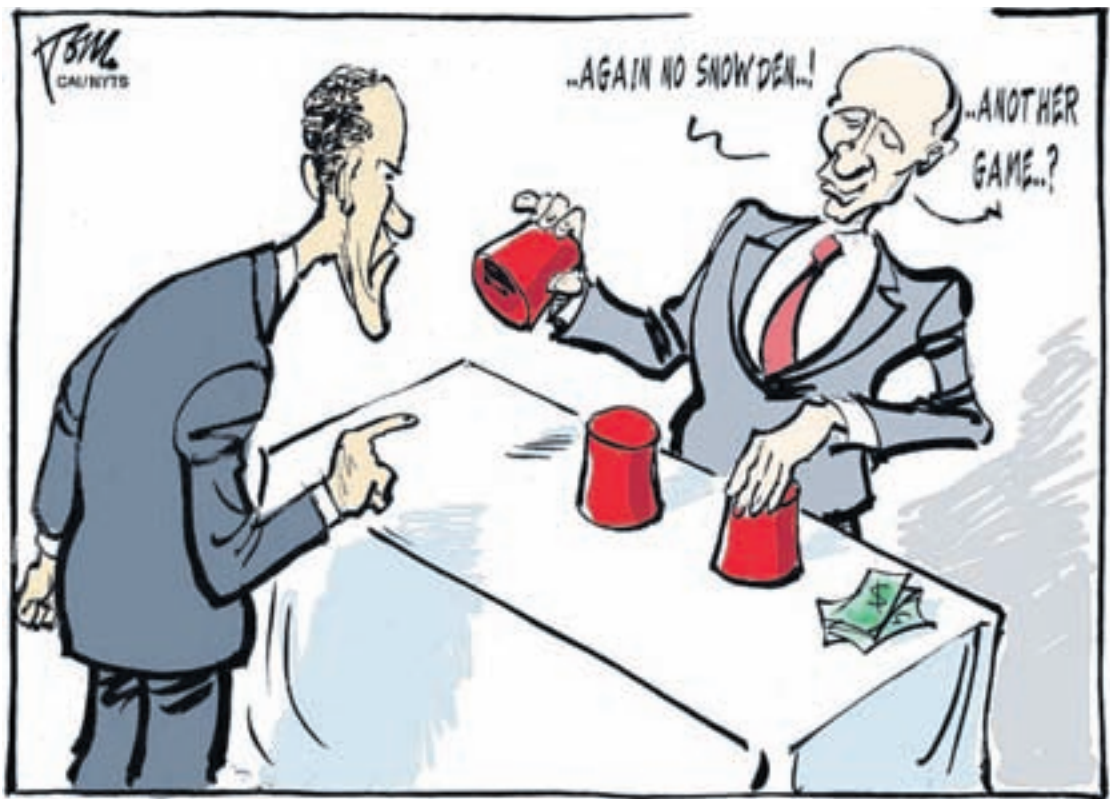
In short, there's a real risk that bad policy will choke off our already inadequate recovery. But won't voters eventually demand more? Well, that's where I get especially pessimistic.

You might think that a persistently poor economy - an economy in which millions of people who could and should be productively employed are jobless, and in many cases have been without work for a very long time - would eventually spark public outrage. But the political science evidence on economics and elections is unambiguous: What matters is the rate of change, not the level.

Put it this way: If unemployment rises from 6 to 7 percent during an election year, the incumbent will probably lose. But if it stays flat at 8 percent through the incumbent's whole term, he or she will probably be returned to power.

And this means that there's remarkably little political pressure to end our continuing, if low-grade, depression.

Someday, I suppose, something will turn up that finally gets us back to full employment. But I can't help recalling that the last time we were in this kind of situation, the thing that eventually turned up was World War II. □



The Secular Society



DAVID BROOKS
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I might as well tell you upfront that this column is a book report. Since 2007, when it was published, academics have been raving to me about Charles Taylor's "A Secular Age." Courses, conferences and symposia have been organized around it, but it is almost invisible outside the academic world because the text is nearly 800 pages of dense, jargon-filled prose.

As someone who tries to report on the world of ideas, I'm going to try to summarize Taylor's description of what it feels like to live in an age like ours, without, I hope, totally butchering it.

Taylor's investigation begins with this question: "Why was it virtually impossible not to believe in God in, say 1500, in our Western society, while in 2000 many of us find this not only easy but even inescapable?" That is, how did we move from the all-encompassing sacred cosmos, to our current world in which faith is a choice, in which some people believe, others don't and a lot are in the middle?

This story is usually told as a subtraction story. Science came into the picture, exposed the world for the way it really is and people started shedding the illusions of faith. Religious spirit gave way to scientific fact.

Taylor rejects this story. He sees secularization as, by and large,

a mottled accomplishment, for both science and faith.

Advances in human understanding - not only in science but also in art, literature, manners, philosophy and, yes, theology and religious practice - give us a richer understanding of our natures. Shakespeare helped us see character in more intricate ways. An improvement in mores means we take less pleasure from bear-baiting, hanging and other forms of public cruelty. We have a greater understanding of how nature works.

These achievements did make it possible to construct a purely humanistic account of the meaningful life. It became possible for people to conceive of meaningful lives in God-free ways - as painters in the service of art, as scientists in the service of knowledge. But, Taylor continues, these achievements also led to more morally demanding lives for everybody, believer and nonbeliever. Instead of just fitting docilely into a place in the cosmos, the good person in secular society is called upon to construct a life in the universe. She's called on to exercise all her strength.

People are called to greater activism, to engage in more reform. Religious faith or nonfaith becomes more a matter of personal choice as part of a quest for personal development.

This shift in consciousness leads to some serious downsides. When faith is a matter of personal choice, even believers experience much more doubt. As James K.A. Smith of *Comment Magazine*, who was generous enough to share his superb manuscript of a book on Taylor, put it, "We don't believe instead of doubting; we believe while doubting. We're all Thomas now."

Individuals don't live embedded in tight social orders; they live in buffered worlds of private choices. Common action, Taylor writes, gives way to mutual display. Many people suffer from a mal-

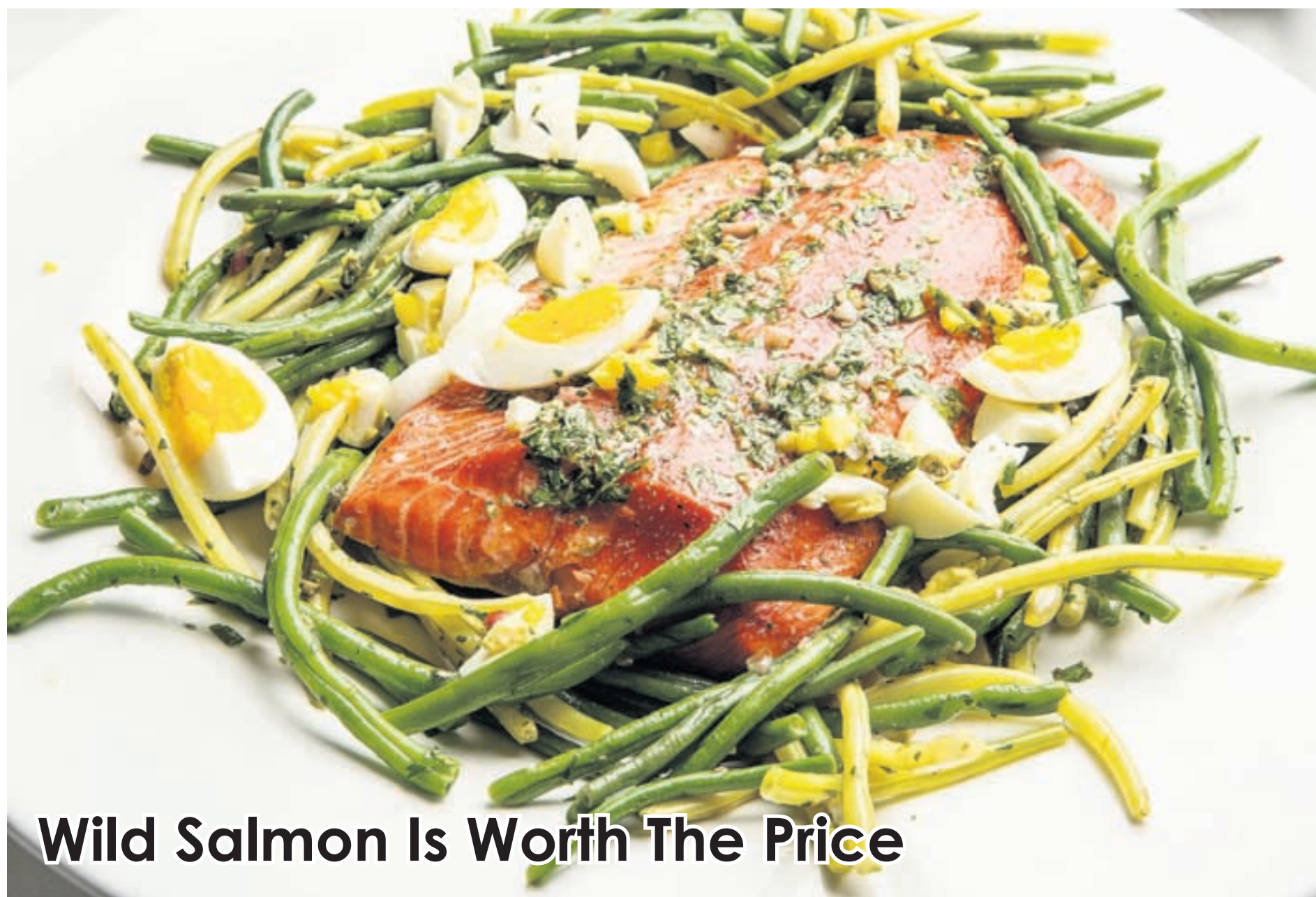
aise. They remember that many people used to feel connected to an enchanted, transcendent order, but they feel trapped in a flat landscape, with diminished dignity: Is this all there is?

But these downsides are more than made up for by the upsides. Taylor can be extremely critical of our society, but he is grateful and upbeat. We are not moving to a spiritually dead wasteland as, say, the fundamentalists imagine. Most people, he observes, are incapable of being indifferent to the transcendent realm. "The yearning for eternity is not the trivial and childish thing it is painted as," Taylor writes.

People are now able to pursue fullness in an amazing diversity of different ways. But Taylor observes a general pattern. They tend not to want to live in a world closed off from the transcendent, reliant exclusively on the material world. We are not, Taylor suggests, sliding toward pure materialism. We are, instead, moving toward what he calls a galloping spiritual pluralism. People in search of fullness are able to harvest the intellectual, cultural and spiritual gains of the past 500 years. Poetry and music can alert people to the realms beyond the ordinary.

Orthodox believers now live with a different tension: how to combine the masterpieces of humanism with the central mysteries of their own faiths. This pluralism can produce fragmentations and shallow options, but Taylor can eviscerate them, and overall, this secular age beats the conformity and stultification of the age of fundamentalism, and it allows for magnificent spiritual achievement.

I'm vastly oversimplifying a rich, complex book, but what I most appreciate is his vision of a "secular" future that is both open and also contains at least pockets of spiritual rigor, and that is propelled by religious motivation, a strong and enduring piece of our nature. □



Wild Salmon Is Worth The Price

A dish of wild salmon with green beans and sauce verte. Served with seasonal vegetables and herbs, wild salmon offers a sublime summer meal.
(Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)

DAVID TANIS

© 2013 New York Times

I have come to view a meal of wild salmon as a splurge, a treat to be savored, and I'm willing to pay the price. Wild salmon is a seasonal thing, available from May to October.

It's not cheap, but the flavor is incredible - sweet, silky, meaty - and the vermilion color is magnificent.

With the abundance of relatively low-priced farmed salmon, however, many of us succumb. But the flavor of farmed salmon doesn't even compare. It's like the difference between a free-range chicken and one that's been factory raised.

Wild salmon swims long distances, its color a result of a natural diet of krill, plankton and algae. Farmed salmon languishes in pens, and its pink color comes artificially.

And even if some fish

farms are exploring more sustainable methods, it is well known that aquacultured salmon is an environmental danger and potential health hazard.

A quick Internet search will give curious cooks more information on the topic. It's enough to put you off your dinner, and may well make you a wild-salmon convert. Certainly, once you taste wild salmon you'll be convinced.

The most important thing about the salmon is not to overcook it. Whether baked or grilled, it is ready as soon as you see white juices rising to the surface, which means the fish will be succulent, not dry. It is better to err on the rare side.

All that is needed to complete this salad is a green herb sauce: sauce verte in French. It's basically a zippy vinaigrette with shallots, capers and a mixture of herbs, mostly parsley. Use

chervil, too, if you can find it.

It is similar to parsley but more delicate, with a faint anise taste. A little fresh tarragon or mint also makes a nice addition.

There you have it. Wild salmon, green beans, new potatoes and herbs: simple seasonal ingredients for an epic summer dining experience.

WILD SALMON WITH GREEN BEANS AND SAUCE VERTE

Time: 1 hour

Yield: 4 to 6 servings

1 1/2 pounds wild salmon fillet, like King or sockeye, skin on

Salt and pepper

Olive oil

2 pounds new potatoes

1 pound haricots verts, or a mixture of small green and yellow beans

1 shallot, finely diced

2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

Zest and juice of 1 small Meyer lemon

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 tablespoon capers, rinsed and roughly chopped

1/4 cup finely chopped parsley

1/4 cup finely chopped chervil, or a mixture of parsley and tarragon

Lettuce leaves, optional

2 hard-cooked (9-minute) eggs, roughly chopped

1. Using pliers, remove pin bones from salmon (or have your fishmonger do it). Season on both sides with salt and pepper. Place on baking sheet skin side down and drizzle with 1 tablespoon olive oil. Set aside at room temperature. Heat oven to 350 degrees.

2. Scrub potatoes and simmer in well-salted water until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain and keep warm.

3. Top and tail the haricots verts and simmer in well-salted water until tender, 3 to 5 minutes. Spread out on a platter to cool (or rinse briefly in cool water) and leave at room

temperature.

4. Make the sauce verte: Put shallot in a small bowl with 1/2 teaspoon salt and cover with red wine vinegar. Macerate 5 minutes, then stir in lemon zest and juice, mustard and capers. Whisk in 1/2 cup olive oil. Just before serving, add parsley, chervil and black pepper to taste.

5. Bake salmon, uncovered, until just done, 10 to 12 minutes. Remove and let cool slightly. Put beans in a medium bowl, season with salt and pepper, and dress with 2 tablespoons sauce verte. Line a platter with lettuce leaves, if using. With a spatula, lift salmon from skin and place in the center.

Surround with the dressed beans. Dab salmon with 2 more tablespoons sauce verte, garnish with chopped egg and serve. Pass potatoes and remaining sauce separately. □